UNITED
NATIONS

E

Economic and Social
Council

PROVISIONAL

E/1996/SR.4
3 June 1996

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Resumed organizational session for 1996

PROVISIONAL SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 4th MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Thursday, 2 May 1996, at 10 a.m.

President: Mr. GERVAIS (Côte d'Ivoire)

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ELECTIONS, NOMINATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS (continued)

Corrections to this record should be submitted in one of the working languages. They should be set forth in a memorandum and also incorporated in a copy of the record. They should be sent within one week of the date of this document to the Chief, Official Records Editing Section, Office of Conference and Support Services, room DC2-794, 2 United Nations Plaza.

96-80572 (E)

The meeting was called to order at 10.40 a.m.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS (continued) (A/CONF.165/PC.3/2/Add.4 and Corr.1, E/1996/2/Add.2, E/1996/13, E/1996/17, E/1996/41)

The PRESIDENT said that the General Assembly had decided to authorize the Economic and Social Council, at its resumed organizational session, to decide on the question of the accreditation to the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) of the non-governmental organizations that had not been recommended for accreditation by the Conference secretariat. Informal consultations on that question were currently taking place.

Turning to the report of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations on its resumed 1995 session (E/1996/17), he drew attention to the four draft decisions contained in paragraph 1 which were recommended for adoption by the Council.

Draft decisions I to IV

Draft decisions I to IV were adopted.

The PRESIDENT drew attention to the report of the World Commission on Culture and Development (E/1996/13) and the note from the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) requesting the Council to consider transmitting the report to the General Assembly for consideration at its fifty-first session.

Mr. MARRERO (United States of America) inquired whether the Secretariat had given formal consideration to any possible financial implications of such a decision.

Ms. KELLEY (Secretary of the Council) said that the Budget Division had assured the Secretariat that the decision would have no financial implications.

The PRESIDENT said he would take it that the Council decided to transmit the report of the World Commission on Culture and Development to the General Assembly for its consideration at its fifty-first session.

It was so decided.

INCREASE IN THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE PROGRAMME OF THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES (continued) (E/1996/20, E/1996/21, E/1996/L.14)

The PRESIDENT recalled that the General Assembly had before it a recommendation by the Council to increase the membership of the Executive Committee of the programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees from 50 to 51 members. In that connection, he drew attention to draft decision E/1996/L.14 entitled "Enlargement of the membership of the Executive Committee of the programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees".

Mr. MARRERO (United States of America) said that his Government wished to reiterate the importance it attached to its membership in the governing body of UNHCR. Its governance structure was unlike that of other bodies in the United Nations system and the sense of cooperation among members was strong. While it was important for interested States to have an opportunity to become members, certain criteria should be applied to candidates for membership. For example, States requesting membership should have ratified either the 1951 Convention on the Status of Refugees or its 1967 Protocol. Facilitation of the work of the High Commissioner, through contributions in kind, in cash or as a refugee host country would also be useful information for the General Assembly to consider in taking its decisions on membership. Such information should be provided well in advance so that members could give it due consideration before formally approving new membership requests.

Draft decision E/1996/L.14 was adopted.

ELECTIONS, NOMINATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS (continued) (E/1996/2/Add.1)

Commission on Human Settlements

The PRESIDENT invited the Council to elect 19 members of the Commission on Human Settlements for a four-year term beginning on 1 January 1997. Information regarding the Commission was given in document E/1996/L.9. Since the number of candidates in all groups was equal to or less than the number of vacancies, he would take it that the Council wished to elect by acclamation the candidates proposed by those groups, and to postpone until a later stage the election of five members from the Group of African States, one member from the Group of Eastern European States and two members from the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States

Bangladesh, Belgium, China, France, Italy, Jamaica, the Netherlands, Poland and Sweden were elected members of the Commission on Human Settlements.

The PRESIDENT said that the Philippines was a candidate for one of the two vacant posts from the Group of Asian States postponed from previous sessions for a term beginning on the date of election and expiring on 31 December 1999. He would take it that the Council wished to elect the Philippines by acclamation and to postpone to a later stage the election of one member from the Group of African States and one member from the Group of Asian States.

The Philippines was elected a member of the Commission on Human Settlements.

Statistical Commission

The PRESIDENT invited the Council to elect eight members of the Statistical Commission for a four-year term beginning on 1 January 1997. Information regarding the Commission was given in document E/1996/L.6. Since the number of candidates in all groups was equal to or less than the number of vacancies, he would take it that the Council wished to elect by acclamation the candidates proposed.

The Czech Republic, India, Jamaica, Japan, Mexico, the Netherlands, Portugal and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland were elected members of the Statistical Commission.

The PRESIDENT said that in addition, the Secretariat had received the candidacy of Colombia to fill the remaining vacancy postponed from a previous session from the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States for a term beginning on the date of election and expiring on 31 December 1999. He would take it that the Council wished to elect Colombia by acclamation.

Colombia was elected a member of the Statistical Commission.

Commission for Social Development

The PRESIDENT invited the Council to elect 10 members of the Commission for Social Development for a four-year term beginning on 1 January 1997. Information regarding the Commission, including the distribution of seats, was given in document E/1995/L.6. Since the number of candidates in the Group of African States, the Group of Asian States, the Group of Eastern European States and the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States was equal to or less than the number of vacancies in those groups, he would take it that the Council wished to elect by acclamation the candidates proposed by

those groups, and to postpone until a later stage the election of two members from the Group of African States.

Chile, China, India, Jamaica and Poland were elected members of the Commission for Social Development.

The PRESIDENT said that, since the number of candidates from the Group of Western European and other States was greater than the number of vacancies, the Council would proceed to a secret ballot.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Akbar (Pakistan) and Ms. Scampini (Paraguay) acted as tellers.

A vote was taken by secret ballot.

Number of ballot papers: 54

Number of valid ballots: 54

Number of members voting: 54

Required majority: 28

Number of votes obtained:

Finland 48

Netherlands 41

Canada 40

Malta 28

Having obtained the required majority and the largest number of votes, Canada, Finland and the Netherlands were elected members of the Commission for Social Development.

Commission on Human Rights (E/1996/L.6)

The PRESIDENT invited the Council to elect 15 members of the Commission on Human Rights for a three-year term beginning on 1 January 1997. In that connection, he drew the Council's attention to document E/1996/L.6.

Ms. KELLEY (Secretary of the Council) read out the following list of candidates: Cambodia, China, Indonesia and Japan for the three vacancies to be filled by the Group of Asian States; Albania, the Czech Republic, Hungary and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia for the one vacancy to be filled by the Group of Eastern European States; Argentina, Bolivia, Ecuador, Guatemala and Uruguay for the three vacancies to be filled by the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States; and Austria, Germany, Ireland and Italy for the four vacancies to be filled by the Group of Western European and Other States. There were

currently no candidates for the four vacancies to be filled by the Group of African States.

Mr. APUNTE (Observer for Ecuador), speaking on behalf of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States, said that Bolivia had withdrawn its candidature.

Ms. GRANT (United Kingdom), speaking on behalf of the Group of Western European and Other States, said that the four candidatures had been endorsed by that Group.

The PRESIDENT said that, since the number of candidates from the Group of Western European and Other States was equal to the number of vacancies for that Group, he took it that the Council wished to elect them by acclamation, and to postpone to a later stage the election of four members from the Group of African States.

It was so decided.

Austria, Germany, Ireland and Italy were elected members of the Commission on Human Rights.

The PRESIDENT said that since there were more candidates from the Group of Asian States, the Group of Eastern European States and the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States than there were vacancies, the Council would proceed to a secret ballot, the number of vacancies to be filled being three for the Group of Asian States, one for the Group of Eastern European States and three for the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States.

At the invitation of the President, Ms. Kirsch (Luxembourg) and Ms. Makoetje (Lesotho) acted as tellers.

A vote was taken by secret ballot.

Group of Asian States

Number of ballot papers:	54
Number of valid ballots:	54
Number of members voting:	54
Required majority:	28

Number of votes obtained:

Indonesia	49
Japan	48
China	45
Cambodia	18
Islamic Republic of Iran	1

Having obtained the required majority, China, Indonesia and Japan were elected members of the Commission on Human Rights.

Group of Eastern European States

Number of ballot papers: 54

Number of valid ballots: 54

Number of members voting: 54

Required majority: 28

Number of votes obtained:

Czech Republic	32
Hungary	18
Albania	3
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	1

Having obtained the required majority, the Czech Republic was elected a member of the Commission on Human Rights.

Group of Latin American and Caribbean States

Number of ballot papers: 54

Invalid ballots: 1

Number of valid ballots: 53

Number of members voting: 53

Required majority: 27

Number of votes obtained:

Uruguay	46
Argentina	40
Ecuador	36
Guatemala	25

Having obtained the required majority, Argentina, Ecuador and Uruguay were elected members of the Commission on Human Rights.

Commission on the Status of Women (E/1996/L.6)

The PRESIDENT invited the Council to elect 11 members for a four-year term beginning on 1 January 1997.

Ms. KELLEY (Secretary of the Council) said that the following 12 countries were candidates: Japan, Pakistan and Thailand for the two vacancies to be filled by the Group of Asian States; Belarus and Poland for the vacancy to be filled by the Group of Eastern European States; Haiti, Paraguay and Peru for the two vacancies to be filled by the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States; and Canada, France, Germany and the United Kingdom for the three vacancies to be filled by the Group of Western European and Other States.

The PRESIDENT said that no candidates had yet been proposed for the vacancies to be filled by African States. He invited the Council to elect by secret ballot two members from the Group of Asian States.

At the invitation of the President, Mrs. Amoah (Ghana) and Ms. Wahbi (Sudan) acted as tellers.

A vote was taken by secret ballot.

Number of ballot papers:	54
Number of valid ballots:	54
Number of members voting:	54
Required majority:	28
Number of votes obtained:	
Japan	41
Thailand	37
Pakistan	29

Having obtained the required majority and the largest number of votes, Japan and Thailand were elected members of the Commission on the Status of Women.

The PRESIDENT invited the Council to elect by secret ballot one member from the Group of Eastern European States.

At the invitation of the President, Mrs. Amoah (Ghana) and Ms. Wahbi (Sudan) acted as tellers.

A vote was taken by secret ballot.

Number of ballot papers:	54
Number of valid ballots:	54
Number of members voting:	54

Required majority: 28

Number of votes obtained:

Poland 36

Belarus 18

Having obtained the required majority, Poland was elected a member of the Commission on the Status of Women.

The PRESIDENT invited the Council to elect by secret ballot two members from the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States.

At the invitation of the President, Mrs. Amoah (Ghana) and Ms. Wahbi (Sudan) acted as tellers.

A vote was taken by secret ballot.

Number of ballot papers: 54

Number of valid ballots: 54

Number of members voting: 54

Required majority: 28

Number of votes obtained:

Peru 43

Paraguay 42

Haiti 22

Uruguay 1

Having obtained the required majority, Paraguay and Peru were elected members of the Commission on the Status of Women.

The PRESIDENT invited the Council to elect by secret ballot three members from the Group of Western European and Other States.

At the invitation of the President, Mrs. Amoah (Ghana) and Ms. Wahbi (Sudan) acted as tellers.

A vote was taken by secret ballot.

Number of ballot papers: 54

Number of valid ballots: 54

Number of members voting: 54

Required majority: 28

Number of votes obtained:

United Kingdom	44
France	42
Canada	37
Germany	37

Having obtained the required majority and the largest number of votes, France and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland were elected members of the Commission on the Status of Women.

Two candidates having received an equal number of votes, a second vote was taken by secret ballot.

Number of ballot papers:	54
Number of valid ballots:	54
Number of members voting:	54
Required majority:	28

Number of votes obtained:

Canada	27
Germany	27

The PRESIDENT said that the result of the vote would be decided by drawing lots, in accordance with rule 70 of the Rules of Procedure.

Germany, having been drawn by lot by the President, was elected a member of the Commission on the Status of Women.

The meeting rose at 1.05 p.m.

UNITED
NATIONS

E

Economic and Social
Council

PROVISIONAL

E/1996/SR.5
10 June 1996

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Resumed organizational session for 1996

PROVISIONAL SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 5th MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Thursday, 2 May 1996, at 3 p.m.

President: Mr. GERVAIS (Côte d'Ivoire)

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ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS (continued)

ELECTIONS, NOMINATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS (continued)

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96-80575 (E)

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The meeting was called to order at 3.20 p.m.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS (continued) (A/CONF.165/PC.3/2/Add.4 and Corr.1, E/1996/2/Add.2, E/1996/13, E/1996/17, E/1996/41)

The PRESIDENT invited the Council to resume consideration of the question of accreditation to the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) of the non-governmental organizations that had not been recommended for accreditation by the Conference secretariat.

Mr. KOVANDA, speaking as Vice-President of the Council, reported on the results of informal consultations. Document A/CONF.165/PC.3/2/Add.4 contained the names of three non-governmental organizations which had not been recommended for accreditation, namely the Taiwan International Alliance, the Canada Tibet Committee and the Tibetan Rights Campaign. On previous occasions, the President had recommended that the Council should go along with the judgement of the Conference secretariat, but informal consultations in the present instance had indicated that such a solution would not be feasible in respect of the Tibetan Rights Campaign. Some members of the Council had indicated that they wished to hold further discussions on the issue, and he could not rule out the possibility that the accreditation would have to be voted on by the Council as a whole. The general background to the accreditation of the three non-governmental organizations under consideration had been known for some time, but the urgency of the issue had only become apparent during the previous few days. Certain delegations had stated that if any vote was to be taken, it should be postponed until the following day.

The PRESIDENT said that, in the light of the Vice-President's report, he took it that the Council wished to continue consideration of the matter the following day.

It was so decided.

ELECTIONS, NOMINATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS (continued) (E/1996/2/Add.1)

The PRESIDENT invited the Council to continue with elections to a number of bodies.

Mr. KASANDA (Zambia), speaking on behalf of the Group of African States, said that Group members needed more time to finalize their list of candidates and requested that consideration of African members should be postponed until the following day.

Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (E/1996/L.6)

The PRESIDENT invited the Council to elect 20 members of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice for a three-year term beginning on 1 January 1997, and drew the Council's attention to document E/1996/L.6.

Ms. KELLEY (Secretary of the Council) said that Fiji, Japan, Pakistan and the Philippines had been endorsed by the Group of Asian States; Bolivia, Colombia and Jamaica had been endorsed by the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States; and Austria, the Netherlands and Sweden had been endorsed by the Group of Western European and Other States. The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Chile should be deleted from the list of non-endorsed candidates.

The PRESIDENT suggested that, since the number of candidates proposed by the Group of Asian States, the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States and the Group of Western European and Other States was equal to or less than the number of vacancies in those groups, he took it that the Committee wished to elect them by acclamation, and to postpone to a later date its consideration of members from the Group of African States.

It was so decided.

Austria, Bolivia, Colombia, Fiji, Jamaica, Japan, the Netherlands, Pakistan, the Philippines and Sweden were elected to the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice.

The PRESIDENT invited the Council to elect by secret ballot two members from the Group of Eastern European States.

At the invitation of the President, Ms. Jormanainen (Finland) and Mr. Gokhale (India) acted as tellers.

A vote was taken by secret ballot.

Number of ballot papers:	54
Number of valid ballots:	54
Number of members voting:	54
Required majority:	28

Number of votes obtained:

Russian Federation 47

Ukraine 42

Croatia 17

Having obtained the required majority, the Russian Federation and Ukraine were elected members of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice.

Commission on Sustainable Development (E/1996/L.6)

The PRESIDENT invited the Council to elect 16 members of the Commission on Sustainable Development for a three-year term beginning on 1 January 1997, and drew the Council's attention to document E/1996/L.6.

Ms. KELLEY (Secretary of the Council) said that Bulgaria and Slovakia had been endorsed by the Group of Eastern European States; Mexico, Panama and Venezuela had been endorsed by the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States; and Canada, Ireland, the United Kingdom and the United States of America had been endorsed by the Group of Western European and Other States.

The PRESIDENT suggested that, since the number of candidates proposed by the Group of Eastern European States, the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States and the Group of Western European and Other States was equal to or less than the number of vacancies in those groups, he took it that the Committee wished to elect them by acclamation and postpone to a later date its consideration of members from the Group of African States.

It was so decided.

Bulgaria, Canada, Ireland, Mexico, Panama, Slovakia, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America and Venezuela were elected members of the Commission on Sustainable Development.

The PRESIDENT invited the Council to elect by secret ballot three members from the Group of Asian States.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Fernández Palacio (Argentina) and Mr. Ouattara (Côte d'Ivoire) acted as tellers.

A vote was taken by secret ballot.

Number of ballot papers: 54

Number of valid ballots: 54

Number of members voting: 54

Required majority: 28

Number of votes obtained:

India 47

Indonesia 41

Japan 38

Fiji 29

Having obtained the required majority and the largest number of votes, India, Indonesia and Japan were elected members of the Commission on Sustainable Development.

Executive Board of the United Nations Children's Fund (E/1996/L.5)

The PRESIDENT invited the Council to elect 11 members of the Executive Board of the United Nations Children's Fund for a three-year term beginning on 1 January 1997. In that connection, he drew attention to the information contained in document E/1996/L.5.

Ms. GRANT (United Kingdom), speaking on behalf of the Group of Western European and Other States, explained that, in accordance with the Group's internal arrangements, Canada had resigned from the Executive Board prior to the expiration of its term, meaning that five members from the Group were now to be elected instead of four.

The PRESIDENT announced that the Chairman of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States had informed him that Jamaica and Nicaragua had been endorsed as candidates for election. Since the number of candidates endorsed by that Group and by the Group of Western European and Other States was equal to the number of vacancies for each Group, he took it that the Council wished to elect those candidates by acclamation and that it also wished to postpone until the following session the election of two members from the Group of African States, which had not yet proposed any candidates.

It was so decided.

Belgium, Germany, Italy, Jamaica, New Zealand, Nicaragua and the United States of America were elected members of the Executive Board of the United Nations Children's Fund.

The PRESIDENT, having informed the Council that the Islamic Republic of Iran had withdrawn from the list of candidates for the Group of Asian States, said that the Group had more candidates than there were vacancies. He therefore invited the Council to elect by secret ballot two members from the Group.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Fernández Palacio (Argentina) and Mr. Ouattara (Côte d'Ivoire) acted as tellers.

A vote was taken by secret ballot.

Number of ballot papers: 54

Number of valid ballots: 54

Number of members voting: 54

Required majority: 28

Number of votes obtained:

Indonesia 42

Oman 36

Sri Lanka 31

Iran 1

Having obtained the required majority and the largest number of votes, Indonesia and Oman were elected members of the Executive Board of the United Nations Children's Fund.

The PRESIDENT said that the Group of Eastern European States had more candidates than there were vacancies; he therefore invited the Council to elect by secret ballot one member from the Group.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Fernández Palacio (Argentina) and Mr. Ouattara (Côte d'Ivoire) acted as tellers.

A vote was taken by secret ballot.

Number of ballot papers: 54

Number of valid ballots: 54

Number of members voting: 54

Required majority: 28

Number of votes obtained:

Czech Republic 37

Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia 17

Having obtained the required majority, the Czech Republic was elected member of the Executive Board of the United Nations Children's Fund.

Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme/United Nations Population Fund (E/1996/L.11)

The PRESIDENT invited the Council to elect 11 members of the Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme/United Nations Population Fund

for a three-year term beginning on 1 January 1997. In that connection, he drew attention to the information contained in document E/1996/L.11.

Ms. GRANT (United Kingdom), speaking on behalf of the Group of Western European and Other States, explained that, in accordance with the Group's internal arrangements, Canada and Spain had resigned from the Executive Board prior to the expiration of their terms, meaning that six members from the Group were now to be elected instead of four.

The PRESIDENT announced that the Chairman of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States had informed him that Brazil and Antigua and Barbuda had been endorsed as candidates for election. Since the number of candidates from that Group, the Group of Eastern European States and the Group of Western European and Other States was equal to or less than the number of vacancies, he took it that the Council wished to elect those candidates by acclamation and that it also wished to postpone until the following session the election of two members from the Group of African States, which had not yet proposed any candidates.

It was so decided.

Antigua and Barbuda, Australia, Austria, Brazil, France, Japan, Norway, the Russian Federation and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland were elected members of the Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme/United Nations Population Fund.

The PRESIDENT said that the Group of Asian States had more candidates than there were vacancies. He therefore invited the Council to elect by secret ballot two members from the Group.

At the invitation of the President, Ms. Scampini (Paraguay) and Mr. Ba (Senegal) acted as tellers.

A vote was taken by secret ballot.

Number of ballot papers:	54
Number of valid ballots:	54
Number of members voting:	54
Required majority:	28
Number of votes obtained:	
Pakistan	43
Thailand	40
Sri Lanka	14

Papua New Guinea 10

Having obtained the required majority, Pakistan and Thailand were elected members of the Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme/ United Nations Population Fund.

The meeting rose at 5.10 p.m.

UNITED
NATIONS

E

Economic and Social
Council

PROVISIONAL

E/1996/SR.6
3 July 1996

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Resumed organizational session for 1996

PROVISIONAL SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 6th MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Friday, 3 May 1996, at 10 a.m.

President: Mr. GERVAIS (Côte d'Ivoire)

CONTENTS

ELECTIONS, NOMINATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS (continued)

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS (continued)

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96-80578 (E)

The meeting was called to order at 10.40 a.m.

ELECTIONS, NOMINATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS (continued)

Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (E/1996/19 and Add.1)

The PRESIDENT drew attention to the list of candidates in document E/1996/19 and Add.1. In addition, the secretariat had received the candidature of Oscar Ceville (Panama) from the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States. Those elected would serve for a four-year term beginning on 1 January 1997. Since the number of candidates from the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States and the Group of Western European and other States was equal to the number of vacancies for each group, he took it that the Council wished to elect them by acclamation.

It was so decided.

Oscar Ceville (Panama), María de los Angeles Jiménez Butraqueño (Spain), Kenneth Osborne Rattray (Jamaica) and Philippe Texier (France) were elected members of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

The PRESIDENT invited the Council to elect by secret ballot two members from the Group of African States, one member from the Group of Asian States and two members from the Group of Eastern European States.

At the invitation of the President, Ms. Turnbull (Australia) and Mrs. Vargas de Mendiola (Costa Rica) acted as tellers.

A vote was taken by secret ballot.

Group of African States

Number of ballot papers:	53
Invalid ballots:	1
Number of valid ballots:	52
Number of members voting:	52
Required majority:	27
Number of votes obtained:	
Abdessatar Grissa (Tunisia)	43
Ariranga Govindasamy Pillay (Mauritius)	30
Lucian Tibaruha (Uganda)	14

Tarik Ezzaki (Morocco) 10

Madoe Virginie Ahodikpe (Togo) 7

Félix Lompo (Niger) 4

Having obtained the required majority, Abdessatar Grissa (Tunisia) and Ariranga Govindasamy Pillay (Mauritius) were elected members of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

Group of Eastern European States

Number of ballot papers: 53

Invalid ballots: 2

Number of valid ballots: 51

Abstentions: 1

Number of members voting: 50

Required majority: 26

Number of votes obtained:

Dumitru Ceausu (Romania) 32

Ivan Antanovich (Belarus) 31

Krzysztof Drzewcki (Poland) 24

Vojtech Tkáč (Slovakia) 10

Having obtained the required majority, Dumitru Ceausu (Romania) and Ivan Antanovich (Belarus) were elected members of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

Group of Asian States

Number of ballot papers: 53

Invalid ballots: 2

Number of valid ballots: 51

Number of members voting: 51

Majority required: 26

Number of votes obtained:

Walid Sa'di (Jordan) 24

Luvsandanzangiin Ider (Mongolia) 18

Nicos Symeonides (Cyprus) 9

The PRESIDENT said that, no candidate having received the required majority, the Council would proceed to a second ballot restricted to the two candidates who had obtained the largest number of votes without having obtained the required majority.

At the invitation of the President, Ms. Turnbull (Australia) and Mrs. Vargas de Mendiola (Costa Rica) acted as tellers.

A vote was taken by secret ballot.

Number of ballot papers:	54
Number of valid ballots:	54
Number of members voting:	54
Required majority:	28
Number of votes obtained:	
Walid Sa'di (Jordan)	32
Luvsandanzangiin Ider (Mongolia)	22

Having obtained the required majority, Walid Sa'di (Jordan) was elected a member of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

Mrs. KABA CAMARA (Côte d'Ivoire), supported by Mrs. CASTRO DE BARISH (Costa Rica), said that her delegation was concerned that the method used to elect members of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights was not in conformity with the methods applied to other human rights bodies, since Council members which had not signed the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights should not participate in the election of members of the Committee. The principle of equitable geographical representation should also be extended to all human rights committees. She requested the Council to examine that matter at its substantive session.

Committee on Natural Resources (E/1996/L.13 and Add.1)

The PRESIDENT drew attention to the candidates described in document E/1996/L.13 and Add.1. In addition, the secretariat had been informed that the Governments of Egypt, Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Nigeria and Zambia would nominate candidates for the six vacancies to be filled by the Group of African States; and that the Government of the Netherlands would nominate a candidate and the Government of Sweden had nominated a candidate - Malin Falkenmark - for two of the six vacancies to be filled by the Group of Western European and other States. Those elected would serve for a term beginning on 1 January 1997. Since the number of candidates from the Group of African States, the Group of Asian States and the Group of Western European and other States was equal to or less than the number of vacancies for the respective groups, he took it that the Council wished to elect them by acclamation.

It was so decided.

Malin Falkenmark (Sweden), Li Yuwei (China), Karlheinz Rieck (Germany) and the candidates to be nominated by the Governments of Egypt, Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, the Netherlands, Nigeria, and Zambia were elected members of the Committee on Natural Resources.

The PRESIDENT said that no candidates had yet been proposed for the vacancies to be filled by the Group of Eastern European States or the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States.

Committee on New and Renewable Sources of Energy and on Energy for Development (E/1996/L.15)

The PRESIDENT drew attention to the candidates described in document E/1996/L.15. In addition, the secretariat had been informed that the Governments of Austria and Germany had nominated Wolfgang Hein and Paul-Georg Gutermutt, respectively, and that the Government of the Netherlands would nominate a candidate, for three of the six vacancies to be filled by the Group of Western European and other States. Those elected would serve for a term beginning on 1 January 1997. Since the number of candidates from the Group of Asian States and the Group of Western European and other States was equal to or less than the number of vacancies for the respective groups, he took it that the Coun l wished to elect them by acclamation.

It was so decided.

Zhai Guocheng (China), Paul-Georg Gutermutt (Germany), Wolfgang Hein (Austria) and the candidate to be nominated by the Government of the Netherlands were elected members of the Committee on New and Renewable Sources of Energy and on Energy for Development.

The PRESIDENT said that no candidates had yet been proposed for the vacancies to be filled by the Group of African States, the Group of Eastern European States or the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States.

Commission on Population and Development (E/1996/L.6)

The PRESIDENT said that the secretariat had received the endorsed candidatures of Algeria, the Congo, Lesotho, Uganda and Zambia for the five vacancies to be filled by the Group of African States. Since the number of candidates from the Group of African States was equal to the number of vacancies, he took it that the Council wished to elect them by acclamation.

It was so decided.

Algeria, the Congo, Lesotho, Uganda and Zambia were elected members of the Commission on Population and Development.

The PRESIDENT said that a full slate of candidates for the 20 new members of the Commission on Population and Development had now been elected. In accordance with the established practice of the Council and in order to provide continuity on the Commission, a drawing of lots was needed in order to stagger the initial terms of office of the new members of the Commission.

The Council decided by the drawing of lots that, in the Group of African States, Algeria and the Congo would serve for three-year terms, Lesotho and Zambia would serve for two-year terms, and Uganda would serve for a one-year term; in the Group of Asian States, the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Syrian Arab Republic would serve for three-year terms, the Philippines and the Republic of Korea would serve for two-year terms, and Nepal and Pakistan would serve for one-year terms; in the Group of Eastern European States, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia would serve for a three-year term and Ukraine would serve for a two-year term; in the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States, El Salvador and Peru would serve for three-year terms, Venezuela would serve for a two-year term, and Cuba would serve for a one-year term; and in the Group of Western European and other States, Malta would serve for a three-year term, Italy would serve for a two-year term and Finland would serve for a one-year term.

The PRESIDENT invited the Council to elect 14 members of the Commission on Population and Development for a four-year term beginning on 1 January 1997. Information regarding the Commission was given in document E/1996/L.6.

Ms. KELLEY (Secretary of the Council) said that the Group of African States had endorsed the candidacies of Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire and Ethiopia for its three vacancies. No candidates had been proposed for the three vacancies for the Group of Asian States. The Group of Eastern European States had endorsed Hungary for its vacancy; for the three seats for the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States, Panama had been proposed. There were four vacancies for the Group of Western European and other States, for which the four non-endorsed candidates were Belgium, Canada, Germany and Turkey.

Mr. OKANIWA (Japan) said that the Group of Asian States was endorsing the candidacy of Bangladesh.

The PRESIDENT said that since the number of candidates in all groups was equal to or less than the number of vacancies, he would take it that the Council wished to elect by acclamation the candidates proposed and to postpone the election of two members of the Group of Asian States and two members from the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States.

Bangladesh, Belgium, Cameroon, Canada, Côte d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Germany, Hungary and Panama were elected members of the Commission on Population and Development.

Mr. SINGH (India) said that it appeared inconsistent to his delegation that those nine new members of the Commission should serve four-year terms, while the new members elected earlier would serve terms of one, two or three years. The length of terms should have been resolved before the elections, and the Council should address the issue at its substantive session.

International Narcotics Control Board

The PRESIDENT said that the Council had before it documents containing biographical information regarding the candidates nominated by the World Health Organization and those nominated by Governments for election to the International Narcotics Control Board. He also drew attention to a vacancy created by the withdrawal of Dr. Fernando Salazar of Bolivia.

He invited the Council to elect two members to the International Narcotics Control Board from the list of candidates submitted by the World Health Organization.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Garcia-Moritan (Argentina) and Mr. Aquarone (Netherlands) acted as tellers.

A vote was taken by secret ballot.

Number of ballots:	54
Number of valid ballots:	54
Abstentions:	1
Members voting:	53
Required majority:	27
Number of votes obtained:	
Nelia P. Cortes-Maramba (Philippines)	39
A. Hamid Ghodse (Islamic Republic of Iran)	27
Kalman Szendrei (Hungary)	23
Philip O. Emafo (Nigeria)	17

Having obtained the required majority, Nelia P. Cortes-Maramba (Philippines) and A. Hamid Ghodse (Islamic Republic of Iran) were elected members of the International Narcotics Control Board.

The PRESIDENT invited the Council to elect five members of the International Narcotics Control Board from the list of candidates submitted by Governments.

Ms. KELLEY (Secretary of the Council) said that Bolivia had withdrawn its candidacy.

Mr. SHEVCHENKO (Ukraine) and Mr. AZLAN MAN (Malaysia) said that their countries had withdrawn their candidates.

Mr. KAMAL (Pakistan) pointed out that the names of the candidates from his country and from Bangladesh had been interchanged on the ballot paper. The entry should read:

M. Enamul Huq (Bangladesh)

Dil Jan Khan (Pakistan)

In view of the importance his country attached to the eradication of narcotic drugs, he wished to ensure that all Council members were aware of the misprint.

Mr. ZIAUDDIN (Bangladesh), supported by Mr. COLOMA (Chile), suggested that amended ballot papers should be issued.

The PRESIDENT said that the original ballot papers would be withdrawn and amended papers issued.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Bakala (Congo) and Mr. Nawrot (Poland) acted as tellers.

A vote was taken by secret ballot.

Number of ballot papers:	54
Invalid ballots:	2
Number of valid ballots:	52
Number of members voting:	52
Required majority:	27
Number of votes obtained:	
Jacques Franquet (France)	32
Dil Jan Khan (Pakistan)	32
Alfonso Gómez Méndez (Colombia)	31

Herbert S. Okun (United States of America)	27
C. Chakrabarty (India)	22
Gabriel Lôtter (South Africa)	18
Nobuo Motohashi (Japan)	17
M. Enamul Huq (Bangladesh)	8
Arthur Pereira de Castilho Neto (Brazil)	8
Ammar Osman Abdel-Rahman (Sudan)	8
Bunsom Martin (Thailand)	8
Koesparmono Irsan (Indonesia)	6
David Scicluna (Malta)	6
Maurice Randrianame (Madagascar)	5
Jassim A. Abdul-Razzaq (Iraq)	4
Glenys Dore (New Zealand)	4
Souheila Hakim (Syrian Arab Republic)	4
Gottfried Machata (Austria)	3
Milan Skrlj (Slovenia)	3
Philip Lazarov (Bulgaria)	2
Jayeshwur Raj Dayal (Mauritius)	2
Ion Roibu (Romania)	2
Sinaly Coulibaly (Mali)	1
Faizur Rahman Chaudhury (Bangladesh)	0
M'Pérè Diarra (Mali)	0
Dheerendra Kuman Dabee (Mauritius)	0
Jenica Dragan (Romania)	0

Having obtained the required majority, Jacques Franquet (France), Dil Jan Khan (Pakistan), Alfonso Gómez Méndez (Colombia) and Herbert S. Okun (United States of America) were elected members of the International Narcotics Control Board.

The PRESIDENT said that a second ballot to elect a fifth member of the International Narcotics Control Board, restricted to the two candidates who had obtained the largest number of votes without having obtained the required majority in the first ballot would be held at a later date.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS (continued)

Mr. KOVANDA (Czech Republic), Vice-President, reporting on the results of the informal consultations on the question of accreditation to the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) of the non-governmental organizations that had not been recommended for accreditation by the Conference secretariat, said that there had been no developments since he had given his report the previous day.

The PRESIDENT asked whether the Council wished to exclude some non-governmental organizations, as it had in 1995.

Mr. MARRERO (United States of America) said no formal recommendations had been received, and he wondered on what basis such decisions should be made. Further explanation was needed before action could be considered.

Mr. WANG Xuexian (China) said that several non-governmental organizations should continue to be excluded from participation in Habitat II.

Mr. MARRERO (United States of America) expressed concern that the Tibetan Rights Campaign, which had initially been recommended for accreditation, had been moved to the list of non-governmental organizations not recommended for accreditation (E/CONF.164/PC.3/2/Add.4). The fact that the organization had not been accredited for the fourth World Conference on Women should in no way imply automatic exclusion from the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II). His delegation had later been given to understand that the organization had been rejected on the grounds that its primary objective was not clearly relevant or seemed to be outside the substantive scope of the Conference.

The Tibetan Rights Campaign was in fact actively involved in local efforts in the United States to prepare for the Conference. Given the considerable efforts which it had expended in the preparations for the Conference, it was clear that the organization was, in a very substantive way, interested and involved in its work. Since the organization had been considered, in the first instance, to have presented sufficient evidence of its relevance, it was hard to understand on what grounds it had been subsequently re-evaluated and removed from the list of non-governmental organizations recommended for accreditation. The only apparent explanation was an objection raised by one Member State which had challenged the relevance of the group's activities for the Conference. Unfortunately, no facts or information had been

offered to substantiate that allegation. To that extent, the secretariat's action in removing the organization from the list of recommended organizations before the allegations had been objectively substantiated was irregular and a departure from established principles and procedures, which provided that an organization recommended for accreditation should so remain unless removed by action of the members of the Council as a whole. Any Member State which challenged the accreditation recommended by the secretariat must establish, with sufficient evidence, that that recommendation should be overturned. No such evidence had been presented.

The departure from established practices raised a substantial issue of principle. No single Member State should be the sole arbiter of which organizations should be added to or removed from the list. To permit that to occur would compromise the integrity of the process and the impartiality of the secretariat. While a host country could object to the accreditation of an organization on national security grounds justifying the denial of access for that organization to its territory, it was another matter to extend that principle in order to deny access to another host country by an organization otherwise deemed relevant to participate in an international conference. His delegation therefore objected to the exclusion of the Tibetan Rights Campaign, and asked that a vote should be taken on the matter.

Mr. BUSACCA (Observer for Italy), speaking on behalf of the European Union, said that his delegation had always supported the broadest participation of non-governmental organizations in international conferences through a fully transparent and open process of accreditation.

The matter before the Council was indeed a very serious one. In view of the statement made by the delegation of the United States of America, a more detailed explanation should be provided regarding the decision not to recommend the three non-governmental organizations listed in annex II.

Mr. ROWE (Australia) said that his delegation also supported the widest participation of non-governmental organizations in international conferences in accordance with the agreed criteria. Insufficient information had been provided as to why the Tibetan Rights Campaign had been moved to the "not recommended" list. A more detailed explanation must be provided to enable the Council to make an appropriate decision. The integrity of the accreditation process must be maintained.

Mr. WANG Xuexian (China) said that the issue currently before the Council had been settled the previous year. It was regrettable that a Member State was again imposing it on the Council, placing an additional strain on the resources of the United Nations, which were already very tight due to that State's accumulated arrears.

The so-called Tibetan Rights Campaign was an organization, based in the territory of the United States of America, the primary objective of which was to separate Tibet from China. It represented a challenge not only to the sovereignty and territorial integrity of China, but also to the purposes and principles of the United Nations Charter. It was precisely for that reason that the Council had decided in 1995 to deny accreditation to that organization for participation in the fourth World Conference on Women. Contrary to the suggestion of the United States representative, the reason had not been that the Conference had been held in Beijing.

The attempt by the United States of America to obtain accreditation for the so-called Tibetan Rights Campaign for the Habitat II Conference was absolutely unacceptable to China, and should be firmly rejected by the Council. In the light of the recommendation of the Conference secretariat, the organization obviously did not meet the criteria for accreditation. He believed that the secretariat's assessment was correct and should be respected by the Council.

The decision made by the Council in 1995 to reject the organization had been based on the fundamental principle that no organization whose objective was to sabotage the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Member States should be allowed to be involved in activities related to the United Nations. Consequently, the Council should firmly reject accreditation of that organization for participation in Habitat II activities.

The United States delegation had claimed that the Tibetan Rights Campaign was involved in activities inside the United States of America related to Habitat II, and was thereby qualified for participation in the Conference. Such an argument was totally groundless; even if the organization had been involved in certain activities in the United States, it did not follow that the organization had changed its nature or its primary objective. While China supported wide participation of non-governmental organizations in international conferences, the issue before the Council was an extremely serious one. He believed that all Member States which valued their own sovereignty and

territorial integrity, and were prepared to defend the purposes and principles of the United Nations Charter, would reach a correct decision.

Ms. IRISH (Canada) said that the application of objective criteria was of crucial importance in maintaining the integrity of the accreditation process. It was most important that the secretariat should clearly explain its reasons for having changed its original recommendation in favour of accreditation of the Tibetan Rights Campaign.

Mr. MAWLAWI (Secretariat of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements) said that, in making its recommendations concerning the accreditation of non-governmental organizations, the Conference secretariat had based its assessment on information submitted by the organizations themselves in their applications and the accompanying documents. The secretariat had also taken guidance from the accreditation process for previous international conferences. The application received from the Tibetan Rights Campaign had indicated that its activities had included participation in the fourth World Conference on Women, and its annual report had mentioned that it had been recommended for participation at that Conference. Subsequently, however, that information had been found to be inaccurate. Although a document issued in 1995 by the Council had stated that the Tibetan Rights Campaign had been recommended for accreditation, subsequent verification had shown that statement to be erroneous, and a corrigendum had been issued on 6 February 1996 (E/1995/INF/4/Add.2/Corr.1) which indicated that the organization had not been recommended for accreditation to the fourth World Conference on Women.

Mr. ELTINAY (Sudan) said that all members of the Council were in favour of wide participation of non-governmental organizations in international conferences. However, when such organizations and their objectives were not consistent with the work of those conferences or with the principles of the United Nations, that should also be borne in mind. The United Nations Charter did not allow any meddling in the internal affairs of Member States, and the Council should not encourage the actions of any organization which failed to respect the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Member States. It would be inappropriate to reconsider the recommendation that the Tibetan Rights Campaign should be denied accreditation for the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements.

Mr. BUSACCA (Observer for Italy) said that apparently the main reason for recommending that the Tibetan Rights Campaign should be denied accreditation for the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements was that it had not been recommended for accreditation for the fourth World Conference on Women. It was disappointing that more detailed information had not been provided as to other reasons for the decision, such as the relevance of that organization to the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements. In order to make a considered decision, the Council needed more complete information. The fourth World Conference on Women had been a different event and different considerations had been taken into account.

Mr. MAWLAWI (Secretariat of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements) said that providing inaccurate information to the Conference secretariat was a serious matter. Although the secretariat did take guidance from the decisions made regarding previous international conferences, it did not base its decisions solely on that. Furthermore, the Conference secretariat had been provided with more information, which was of a sensitive nature, and the content of which could be considered to preclude any recommendation that accreditation should be granted to the Tibetan Rights Campaign.

Mr. MARRERO (United States of America) said that the explanation provided by the Conference secretariat did not answer the very vital question of why the secretariat had, in the first instance, found the organization in question to be relevant, and had subsequently changed its mind. The information concerning the denial to that organization of accreditation to the fourth World Conference on Women must have been available to the secretariat when the organization had filed its latest application. His delegation had also been informed that the organization had not at any time been given official notification that it had been rejected for accreditation to the fourth World Conference on Women.

Mr. AGGREY (Ghana) said that, in the absence of a consensus, the only way for the Council to decide the issue was by a vote, as had been already been requested by the delegation of the United States of America.

The PRESIDENT said that he took it that the Council wished to deny accreditation to the Canada Tibet Committee and to the Taiwan International Alliance.

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT said that he took it that the Council wished to vote on the question of denying accreditation of the Tibetan Rights Campaign to the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements.

At the request of the representative of the United States of America, a recorded vote was taken.

In favour: Bangladesh, Belarus, Brazil, China, Colombia, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Egypt, Gabon, Ghana, Guyana, India, Indonesia, Jordan, Lebanon, Malaysia, Pakistan, Sudan, Tunisia, United Republic of Tanzania, Zimbabwe.

Against: Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Poland, Portugal, Sweden, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

Abstaining: Argentina, Australia, Canada, Chile, Costa Rica, Greece, Jamaica, Japan, Philippines, Romania, Russian Federation, Senegal, South Africa, Thailand, Togo, Venezuela.

Accreditation of the Tibetan Rights Campaign was rejected by 21 votes to 15, with 16 abstentions.

Mr. WANG Xuexian (China) said that his delegation was most gratified that justice had prevailed once again, and he hoped that such would become the practice of the Economic and Social Council, and of the entire United Nations system. Hegemonism should find no place in the Council's deliberations. He thanked all those delegations which had supported his position.

Mr. ROWE (Australia) said that his delegation had abstained in the vote because the explanations and information necessary in order to take a considered position had not been provided to the Council. A full disclosure had not been made of the reasons for which the Tibetan Rights Campaign had been moved to the list of non-governmental organizations not recommended for accreditation. It was essential to ensure that in future the integrity of the accreditation process should be strictly adhered to.

Ms. IRISH (Canada) said that her Government was strongly committed to participation and access for non-governmental organizations at the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements, as at all recent United Nations conferences and summits. The overall integrity of the accreditation process and the interests of the Conference would be best served by accepting the

recommendations of the Conference secretariat based on objective application of the agreed criteria established for accreditation to that particular Conference. Her delegation had had reservations about the secretariat's decision to change its original recommendation in favour of accreditation without clearly setting out the reasons. In the absence of sufficient clarity, it had not been possible for her delegation to form a definitive view on the case before the Council. In future, agreed criteria should be applied so as to ensure the broadest possible access of non-governmental organizations which could contribute constructively to the aims of such conferences.

The meeting rose at 1.30 p.m.

UNITED
NATIONS

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Economic and Social
Council

PROVISIONAL

E/1996/SR.7
3 July 1996

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Resumed organizational session for 1996

PROVISIONAL SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 7th MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Friday, 3 May 1996, at 3 p.m.

President: Mr. GERVAIS (Côte d'Ivoire)

CONTENTS

ELECTIONS, NOMINATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS (continued)

CLOSURE OF THE SESSION

Corrections to this record should be submitted in one of the working languages. They should be set forth in a memorandum and also incorporated in a copy of the record. They should be sent within one week of the date of this document to the Chief, Official Records Editing Section, Office of Conference and Support Services, room DC2-794, 2 United Nations Plaza.

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The meeting was called to order at 3.30 p.m.

ELECTIONS, NOMINATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS (continued) (E/1996/2/Add.1)

International Narcotics Control Board (continued)

The PRESIDENT recalled that, at its previous meeting, the Council had elected only four members to the International Narcotics Control Board, since neither the candidate from India nor the candidate from South Africa had received the required majority. A vote would be taken by secret ballot to elect one of those candidates.

At the invitation of the President, Mrs. Vargas de Mendiola (Costa Rica) and Mr. Bakala (Congo) acted as tellers.

A vote was taken by secret ballot.

Number of ballot papers:	52
Invalid ballots:	0
Number of valid ballots:	52
Abstentions:	0
Number of members voting:	52
Required majority:	27
Number of votes obtained:	
C. Chakrabarty (India)	30
Gabriel Lôtter (South Africa)	22

Having obtained the required majority, C. Chakrabarty (India) was elected a member of the International Narcotics Control Board.

Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (continued) (E/1996/19 and Add.1)

Ms. KELLEY (Secretary of the Council) said that as a result of a recount requested by a member of the Council, it had been ascertained that a mistake had been made in the counting of the ballots and that Abdessatar Grissa (Tunisia), having received the required majority, had been elected to the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. Since no other candidate had received the required majority, the Council had to choose between the candidates

from the two countries that had received the most votes: Ariranga Govindasamy Pillay (Mauritius) and Lucian Tibaruha (Uganda).

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Hadjiyski (Bulgaria) and Ms. Bosheck (Germany) acted as tellers.

A vote was taken by secret ballot.

Number of ballot papers:	54
Invalid ballots:	0
Number of valid ballots:	54
Abstentions:	2
Number of members voting:	52
Required majority:	27
Number of votes obtained:	
Ariranga Govindasamy Pillay (Mauritius)	36
Lucian Tibaruha (Uganda)	16

Having obtained the required majority, Ariranga Govindasamy Pillay (Mauritius) was elected a member of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

Committee for Programme and Coordination (E/1996/L.8)

The PRESIDENT said he had been informed that the Group of Western European and other States had endorsed three candidates, Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom, and that the Group of African States had endorsed four candidates: Cameroon, Congo, Nigeria and Zimbabwe.

Ms. KELLEY (Secretary of the Council) said that the Group of Asian States had four members to be elected and had endorsed the candidates from Indonesia, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Pakistan and Thailand. The Group of Eastern European States had three members to be elected and there were four non-endorsed candidates: Bulgaria, Poland, Romania and Ukraine. The Group of Latin American and Caribbean States had four members to be elected and had endorsed the candidacies of Argentina, Brazil, Nicaragua and Trinidad and Tobago.

The PRESIDENT said that, since the number of nominations was equal to or less than the number of vacancies to be filled by African States, Asian States, Latin American and Caribbean States and Western European and other States, he would take it that the Council wished to submit for election by the

General Assembly at its fifty-first session all the nominations proposed from those States.

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT said that, since there were more candidates from the Group of Eastern European States than there were vacancies, he would take it that the Council wished to forward to the General Assembly the names submitted by that Group and request the General Assembly to carry out the elections for the three vacant seats.

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT said that the observer for Zambia, speaking on behalf of the Group of African States, would inform the Council of the candidates who had been nominated by that Group to the functional commissions and other bodies.

Commission on Human Settlements (E/1996/L.9)

Mrs. CHIGAGA (Observer for Zambia) said that there were five vacancies for African States and that the Group had endorsed the candidacies of Ethiopia, Liberia, Malawi, Namibia and Zambia.

The PRESIDENT suggested that, since the number of candidates proposed by the Group of African States was equal to the number of vacancies for that Group, those candidates should be elected by acclamation.

It was so decided.

Ethiopia, Liberia, Malawi, Namibia and Zambia were elected members of the Commission on Human Settlements by acclamation.

Commission for Social Development (E/1996/L.6)

Mrs. CHIGAGA (Observer for Zambia) said that there were two vacancies for African States, and that the Group had endorsed the candidacies of Malawi and South Africa.

The PRESIDENT suggested that, since the number of candidates proposed by the Group of African States was equal to the number of vacancies for that Group, those candidates should be elected by acclamation.

It was so decided.

Malawi and South Africa were elected members of the Commission for Social Development by acclamation.

Commission on the Status of Women (E/1996/L.6)

Mrs. CHIGAGA (Observer for Zambia) said that there were three vacancies for African States and that the Group had endorsed the candidacies of Ethiopia, Ghana and Morocco.

The PRESIDENT suggested that, since the number of candidates proposed by the Group of African States was equal to the number of vacancies for that Group, those candidates should be elected by acclamation.

It was so decided.

Ethiopia, Ghana and Morocco were elected members of the Commission on the Status of Women by acclamation.

Commission on Sustainable Development (E/1996/L.6)

Mrs. CHIGAGA (Observer for Zambia), said that there were four vacancies for African States and that the Group had endorsed the candidacies of Djibouti, Egypt, the Niger and the Sudan.

The PRESIDENT suggested that, since the number of candidates proposed by the Group of African States was equal to the number of vacancies for that Group, those candidates should be elected by acclamation.

It was so decided.

Djibouti, Egypt, the Niger and the Sudan were elected members of the Commission on Sustainable Development by acclamation.

Executive Board of the United Nations Children's Fund (E/1996/L.5)

Mrs. CHIGAGA (Observer for Zambia) said that there were two vacancies for African States and that the Group had endorsed the candidacies of Cape Verde and Nigeria.

The PRESIDENT suggested that, since the number of candidates proposed by the Group of African States was equal to the number of vacancies for that Group, those candidates should be elected by acclamation.

It was so decided.

Cape Verde and Nigeria were elected members of the Executive Board of the United Nations Children's Fund by acclamation.

Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme/United Nations Population Fund (E/1996/L.11)

Mrs. CHIGAGA (Observer for Zambia) said that there were two vacancies for African States and that the Group had endorsed the candidacies of Guinea and the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya.

The PRESIDENT suggested that, since the number of candidates proposed by the Group of African States was equal to the number of vacancies for that Group, those candidates should be elected by acclamation.

It was so decided.

Guinea and the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya were elected members of the Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme/United Nations Population Fund by acclamation.

Executive Board of the World Food Programme

Mrs. CHIGAGA (Observer for Zambia) said that the African States wished to request a postponement of the election to fill the Group's vacancies in order to consider the candidacies further.

The PRESIDENT said he took it that the Council agreed to postpone the election to fill the vacancies for the Group of African States on the Executive Board of the World Food Programme.

It was so decided.

Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (E/1996/L.6)

Mrs. CHIGAGA (Observer for Zambia) said that there were eight vacancies for African States and that the Group had endorsed the candidacies of Lesotho, the Sudan, Swaziland, Tunisia and Zambia. The Group wished to request a postponement of the election to fill the remaining three vacancies until a later date.

The PRESIDENT suggested that the five candidates endorsed by the Group of African States should be elected by acclamation and that the election to fill the remaining three vacancies should be postponed.

It was so decided.

Lesotho, the Sudan, Swaziland, Tunisia and Zambia were elected members of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice by acclamation.

Commission on Human Rights (E/1996/L.6)

Mrs. CHIGAGA (Observer for Zambia) said that there were four vacancies for African States and that the Group had endorsed the candidacies of Cape Verde, Mozambique, South Africa and Zaire.

Ms. KELLEY (Secretary of the Council) said that the Council had received a note verbale dated 3 May 1996 from the Permanent Mission of Mauritania to the United Nations announcing that that country was submitting its name as a candidate for a vacancy on the Commission on Human Rights.

Accordingly, there were four endorsed candidates as well as the candidacy of Mauritania.

Mr. OULD ELY (Observer for Mauritania) said that his country had put forward its candidacy for the Commission in February 1996. Mauritania was not a candidate for any other vacancy in 1996 and had always demonstrated a spirit of good will in such matters. Nevertheless, the manner in which the vacancies had been allocated at the regional level was highly questionable, and consensus had not been reached in the Group of African States. Accordingly, Mauritania wished to maintain its candidacy for a vacancy on the Commission.

Mrs. CHIGAGA (Observer for Zambia) said that, although Mauritania had put forward its candidacy in February, the Group of African States had not endorsed it.

Mr. LEAO MONTEIRO (Observer for Cape Verde) said that his country's candidacy had been endorsed by the Group of African States in accordance with established criteria. Cape Verde had never been a member of the Commission and was not currently a member of any other body of the Council.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Sorcar (Bangladesh) and Mr. Žebrakovský (Czech Republic) acted as tellers.

A vote was taken by secret ballot:

Number of ballot papers:	54
Number of invalid ballots:	0
Number of valid ballots:	54
Abstentions:	0
Number of members voting:	54
Required majority:	28
Number of votes obtained:	
Cape Verde	48
Mauritania	16
Mozambique	50
South Africa	48
Zaire	46

Having obtained the required majority, Cape Verde, Mozambique, South Africa and Zaire were elected members of the Commission on Human Rights.

Commission on Population and Development (continued) (E/1996/L.6)

Ms. KELLEY (Secretary of the Council) said that a number of delegations had drawn attention to the question of staggering the ending dates of the terms of office of the members of the Commission on Population and Development so that some members would serve for three years, some for two years and some for one year. In February 1996 the Council had agreed to increase the Commission's membership by 20 members. At that time, it had elected 15 additional members and had postponed the election of five members from African States. Since the Council had just elected the five members from African States at the previous meeting, the 20 new vacancies had been filled.

It had been pointed out, however, that the term of office of Commission members was in fact four years, so that the staggered terms should have been four years, three years and two years. If the Council so agreed, the election at the previous meeting of candidates who were to begin terms on 1 January 1997 would be considered void and another election would be held bearing in mind that the members elected would be serving for four years, three years or two years.

Mr. SINGH (India) said that the issue should be given further thought before action was taken.

The PRESIDENT said that the Council would have to defer taking a decision on the matter until a subsequent meeting.

Mr. VAUGHN-FENN (United Kingdom) said that his delegation needed a little more time to consider the very important points made by the Secretariat and the representative of India. He agreed with the President that the Council could take a decision on the matter at a subsequent meeting.

The PRESIDENT suggested that, in order to give members sufficient time to consider the matter more thoroughly, it should be taken up during the substantive session.

It was so decided.

Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts on International Standards of Accounting and Reporting (E/1996/L.10)

Mrs. CHIGAGA (Observer for Zambia) said that the African States were nominating Gabon, Kenya, Malawi and Namibia to fill four of the five vacancies on the Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts on International Standards of Accounting and Reporting allotted to those States. Elections for the fifth

vacancy should be postponed until the Group of African States had nominated a candidate.

The PRESIDENT said he would take it that the Council wished to elect Gabon, Kenya, Malawi and Namibia to fill four of the five vacancies allotted to the Group of African States and to postpone the election to fill the fifth vacancy until such time as the Group nominated a candidate.

It was so decided.

Mr. LADSOUS (France) said that his delegation was very dissatisfied at the grave irregularities in linguistic usage which had marked the current session of the Council. Notwithstanding the serious financial difficulties facing the Organization, the General Assembly had reaffirmed at its previous session that practices relating to the use of languages must be respected and that delegations whose working language was not English must be able to work in their language.

Unfortunately, at the current session, delegations had, in a spirit of cooperation and in order not to impede the work of the Council, agreed to take decisions on documents issued only in English, a language which some members did not understand. The Secretariat was not meeting its obligations under the Council's rules of procedure and that blatant violation of the principle of language equality in connection with the work of one of the main organs of the United Nations was absolutely unacceptable to his delegation. Financial considerations were no longer an acceptable justification, and his delegation wished to protest as vigorously as possible.

The PRESIDENT endorsed the statement made by the representative of France. In agreeing to work in a language other than his own working language he had simply sought to ensure that the Council made optimum use of the time available to it and conducted its elections. He hoped that the Secretariat would honour its assurances to him that a similar situation would not occur at the Council's forthcoming substantive session.

Mrs. CASTRO de BARISH (Costa Rica) endorsed the statement made by the representative of France and said she hoped that that situation would not be repeated. It was only logical that in such an important body as the Economic and Social Council all delegations should not only be able to use their working languages but should also be able to obtain documentation in those languages.

Ms. KELLEY (Secretary of the Council) announced that a recount of the ballots cast in the election of Asian States to the Executive Board of UNICEF had resulted in a slight modification in the figures. Indonesia had received 42 votes, Oman 35 votes, Sri Lanka 30 votes and the Islamic Republic of Iran 1 vote. That did not affect the election of Indonesia and Oman to the Executive Board.

The Council needed to take a decision concerning the staggering of the terms of office of the Commission on Population and Development.

Mr. HALLAK (Observer for the Syrian Arab Republic) said that when the Council examined candidacies in the future, they should give serious consideration to the need to respect the principle of equitable geographical distribution and ensure the broadest possible representation of member States. Unfortunately, there were a number of large countries in Asia that wished to have permanent seats on the Commission on Human Rights and other bodies, despite the desires of a number of smaller countries to be represented also. He fervently hoped that the Council would give serious consideration to ensuring that the legitimate rights of underrepresented or unrepresented States in all geographical groups would be taken into account in cases where agreement on all the candidacies in all the regional groups had been impossible.

CLOSURE OF THE SESSION

The PRESIDENT declared the resumed organizational session of the Council for 1996 closed.

The meeting rose at 4.35 p.m.

UNITED
NATIONS

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Economic and Social
Council

PROVISIONAL

E/1996/SR.8
5 July 1996

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Substantive session of 1996

PROVISIONAL SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 8th MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Monday, 24 June 1996, at 10 a.m.

President: Mr. GERVAIS (Côte d'Ivoire)

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96-80833 (E)

The meeting was called to order at 10.20 a.m.

OPENING OF THE SESSION

The PRESIDENT declared open the substantive session of 1996 of the Economic and Social Council and said that, in adopting resolution 50/227, the General Assembly had recognized the important role of the Council as the central mechanism for coordination of the activities of the United Nations system and its specialized agencies and supervision of subsidiary bodies, in particular its functional commissions, in the economic, social and related fields. It was for the Council to give practical shape to those goals and, in that connection, he hoped that it would be able to initiate a number of restructuring measures during 1996.

The Council's current substantive session was important not only because reform measures needed to be initiated but also because of the relevance of the themes to be considered. The discussions on the strengthening of cooperation between the United Nations development system and the Bretton Woods institutions in the field of social and economic development were also of critical importance.

He informed the Council that the Permanent Representative of Argentina to the United Nations, Mr. Emilio J. Cárdenas, who had been elected Vice-President of the Council, had left New York. The Latin American and Caribbean Group had endorsed the candidacy of Mr. Carlos Dante Riva, Chargé d'affaires of the Permanent Mission of Argentina to the United Nations, to complete the term of office of Ambassador Cárdenas. He took it that the Council wished to elect Mr. Carlos Dante Riva as Vice-President to complete the term of office left vacant by the departure of Ambassador Cárdenas.

It was so decided.

Mr. DESAI (Under-Secretary-General for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development) said that the United Nations carried out its development activities at three levels. The first was the process of policy development which, over the previous four or five years, had shown great vitality following the organization of a number of major global conferences.

The latter had played an important role in bringing together delegations from Member States, non-governmental organizations and other interested parties in forums which had helped to define the international agenda for action in certain crucial areas. The second level consisted of the standing political processes which served as a link between the global conferences and the monitoring of the implementation of their decisions. At that level also, policies were developed in those areas not covered by the global conferences. Finally, at the operational level, the Organization sought to maintain the political energies and commitment to the implementation of the decisions adopted by the conferences.

In resolution 50/227, the General Assembly had requested the Council to conduct an annual review of the overall financial picture of funds and programmes with a view to making recommendations on an integrated approach to the funding of development within the United Nations system. It had also asked the Council to eliminate those aspects of its work which duplicated the work of the Assembly or which were not relevant to the work of its subsidiary bodies. At its current session, the Council must therefore decide how best to undertake a review of its mandates, functions and working methods. It must also review the role of the regional commissions and its own relationship with the specialized agencies at the field and headquarters levels in order to identify areas in which coordination could be improved.

Resolution 50/227 was therefore a major instrument for restructuring the Council's work and strengthening its role in the development of policy and in ensuring that the momentum of the work generated in the United Nations by the great global conferences was carried forward effectively.

Mr. SPETH (Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and United Nations Special Coordinator for Economic and Social Development) said that a number of important developments had taken place in the past year, including the holding of the Fourth World Conference on Women and the second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II). The United Nations and the Bretton Woods institutions had adopted an integrated approach to the follow-up of the decisions and recommendations emanating from those Conferences. The United Nations System-Wide Special Initiative on Africa had been launched in March 1996 in order to give a more prominent place in the international agenda to that continent's need for sustainable and people-centred

development and to more effectively coordinate the Organization's contribution to the efforts being made in that regard. He wished to acknowledge the excellent cooperation which the Special Initiative had received from the World Bank. For its part, the ninth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development had infused new life and direction into that body.

All of those events underscored a logic that was simple yet powerful. None of the goals for which the United Nations had worked over the years could be achieved except in the context of sustainable, people-centred development. Moreover, development was not possible without international cooperation. The reality was that, despite the trend towards globalization, increased trade opportunities and private sector investment, the balance of forces was heavily skewed in favour of a small group of countries. Although it was generally believed that developing countries were now better off than before, recent World Bank data showed that, in over 60 per cent of the countries to which the United Nations and other development partners provided development assistance, per capita income had actually declined over the previous decade. For development assistance to succeed, the United Nations was needed to do things which other development partners simply could not do. Indeed, the Organization's record in the field of development cooperation was second to none.

It was therefore ironic that just when the end of the cold war had eliminated the distorting effects of that conflict on development cooperation, when the development assistance community was finally learning how to do its job more effectively, and when the needs of the developing world were mushrooming, the resources needed for development cooperation were shrinking rapidly. Over the previous four years, real development assistance, not including humanitarian aid, had declined by 25 per cent. It was also ironic that just as the global community was beginning to understand the links between peace and development and the United Nations was being called upon to play a peacemaking role in conflict areas and to assume responsibility for the follow-up to the great global conferences, the Organization was threatened with a financial crisis of unprecedented proportions. Those were not only ironies but tragedies of the current era.

Current trends must be overcome. He paid tribute to those States which had gone against those trends and acknowledged, in particular, the leadership role

being played by Japan both in terms of its development philosophy and its unmatched contribution to development cooperation. He also paid tribute to Denmark, Norway, Sweden and the Netherlands which, over the years, had consistently met the target of 0.7 per cent of gross domestic product for official development assistance.

The Council must play a leadership role in sustaining United Nations operations financially and in ensuring the success of the follow-up to the major conferences and to the Special Initiative on Africa. For its part, the Organization must complete the current reform process as early as possible. Reform was not downsizing. Rather, it was the building of the great institution that was needed to deal with current problems and with the challenges of the twenty-first century. In order to achieve that goal, it was essential to strengthen not only the resident coordinator system but also cooperation between the United Nations on the one hand and the Bretton Woods institutions and the World Trade Organization (WTO) on the other as well as to develop a unified framework within which to carry out the operational activities of the United Nations system. The Council had a crucial role to play in the reform process and without its leadership it was doubtful whether the Organization's goals in that area could be achieved.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS (E/1996/100, E/1996/L.16 and E/1996/L.17)

Mr. DESAI (Under-Secretary-General for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development) responding to the question raised by the representative of the United States, said that the implementation of General Assembly resolution 50/227 could be taken up under the present item.

Mr. MARRERO (United States of America) said that he would welcome clarification concerning the Council's role in promoting the Special Initiative on Africa.

Mr. SPETH (Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and United Nations Special Coordinator for Economic and Social Development) noted that a panel discussion on the Special Initiative on Africa would be held on 10 July 1996. There was a very powerful linkage between the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s and the Special Initiative on Africa, the latter being one of the principal ways of implementing the former. He would answer the question raised by the United

States representative both in the course of the policy dialogue and during the panel discussion.

Mr. BAILLARGEON (Canada) asked whether the question of harmonization of work programmes would be addressed under item 9 and whether a note to that effect was being prepared.

Mr. DESAI (Under-Secretary-General for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development) said that a background note on the whole question would be available for the discussions of the general segment.

Mr. PEDROSO CUESTA (Cuba) asked whether the report of the Administrative Committee on Coordination contained an analysis of the role of the United Nations with respect to the Special Initiative on Africa and an analysis of how the Initiative and the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s would complement each other.

Mr. SPETH (Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and United Nations Special Coordinator for Economic and Social Development) said that his organization's current plans were reflected in the ACC report. All delegations had been provided with copies of the full report released earlier on in the year on the Special Initiative on Africa. Additional copies would be made available for those delegations which did not have any.

The agenda was adopted.

The PRESIDENT drew attention to the proposed programme of work for the substantive session of 1996 (E/1996/L.16). He had been asked to draw the council's attention to General Assembly resolution 50/206, which contained measures on control and limitation of documentation, and especially to paragraphs 6, 7, 8 and 11 thereof.

It had also been suggested that, bearing in mind the provisions of rule 46 of the Council's rules of procedure, the Council should continue its practice concerning statements in exercise of the right of reply.

He took it that the Council wished to approve its programme of work for the substantive session of 1996 as contained in document E/1996/L.16.

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT said he took it that the Council wished to approve the accreditation of the Union des Conseils Economiques et Sociaux d'Afrique (UCESA) to the Economic and Social Council.

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT invited the Council to begin its high-level segment and, in particular, the one-day policy dialogue and discussion, which would be on important developments in the world economy and international economic cooperation with heads of multilateral financial and trade institutions of the United Nations system. The outcome of the one-day policy dialogue would be included in the presidential summary of the high-level segment.

POLICY DIALOGUE AND DISCUSSION ON IMPORTANT DEVELOPMENTS IN THE WORLD ECONOMY AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION WITH HEADS OF MULTILATERAL FINANCIAL AND TRADE INSTITUTIONS OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM (E/1996/60)

Mr. RICUPERO (Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)) said that in recent years the contribution of the developing countries to the growth of the global economy and trade had been far in excess of their economic weight. During the period from 1994 to 1995, growth in world output had fallen from 3 per cent to 2.5 per cent and growth in the developed economies had declined from 2.8 per cent to 2.1 per cent whereas growth in the developing countries taken as a whole had reached more than 4 per cent in 1995 and was expected to be in excess of 5 per cent in 1996 and 1997. Growth in developing countries was expected to continue to outpace expansion in world output and in the industrialized countries.

The autonomy of economic growth in certain developing countries vis-à-vis the traditional locomotive of growth in the industrialized world was a new development which might have far-reaching implications. A number of Asian countries had posted growth rates in excess of 7 per cent at a time when Japan was in recession and demand growth was sluggish at best in the rest of the developed world. Performance indicators in the area of imports had been just as lopsided. At 13 per cent in 1995, import growth in Asia had exceeded the world average for the fourth consecutive year. Being internally generated, the volume of Asian developing country imports did not depend on the growth of industrial economies and had instead become significant for those economies. The same was true as regards Latin America where, between 1990 and 1995, the average growth in the volume of merchandise imports had been 11.5 per cent as compared to 10 per cent for Asia.

Economic growth alone would not be sufficient to sustain such an expansion of imports. Significantly, developing countries had undertaken more than 60 unilateral trade liberalization programmes during and after the conclusion of

the Uruguay Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations. In contrast only four members of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development had liberalized their trade regimes during the 1980s. Those facts and figures suggested that the time had come to change the outdated cliches about developing countries lagging behind in trade liberalization.

Developing countries had also made important contributions to the global economy in the areas of macroeconomic stabilization, the significant liberalization and deregulation of financial markets and the unprecedented liberalization of rules related to foreign direct investment.

Having dwelt on what the developing countries were doing for themselves, he turned to what could be done to improve the external economic environment, and suggested that the main industrial countries could perhaps coordinate a strategy of economic expansion to, inter alia, promote budgetary policies that allowed for expenditures to combat unemployment. Japan had done precisely that at the end of 1995. As a result, in the first quarter of 1996, the economy had grown at its fastest rate for 23 years.

Drawing attention to a recent World Bank study, he noted that the generally buoyant projections for the global economy masked an increase in the number of least developed countries. A common trait of those countries was an acute lack of basic and productive infrastructures, high levels of foreign indebtedness and weak supply capabilities which made it difficult for them to take advantage of liberalized trade. Those problems could not be overcome without external technical assistance, financing and official development assistance (ODA) which, he hoped, would be provided by the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank.

Unfortunately, the level of ODA continued to fall, the most frequent excuse cited being the need to cut budget deficits in industrial nations.

One essential element which was still missing in the current external environment was a system of financial cooperation capable of preventing the emergence of serious financial crises and reducing the level of financial volatility. Not even the successive crises in the world economy during the previous decade had been able to catalyse a lasting solution. Monetary discipline accepted by the larger economies at the end of the 1980s had been abandoned without convincing reasons, and greater efforts were needed to

integrate the international dimension into the macroeconomic and monetary policies of those economies.

Some consideration should be given to the idea of setting up an early-warning system jointly operated by the United Nations, the Bretton Woods institutions and the World Trade Organization. The aim would be to detect emerging crises in order to take coordinated action to limit their financial, economic, social, humanitarian and security consequences.

Turning to the role of UNCTAD, he said that at its recent ninth session, UNCTAD had received broad political support from developing and developed countries alike. It had also received a clear and reinforced mandate which struck the right balance between a focus on new and emerging issues, such as investment and enterprise, and the maintenance of the institution's traditional agenda of dealing with persistent problems. Its intergovernmental machinery had been streamlined and simplified, and a far-reaching process of internal restructuring had been initiated. The most important result of the conference, however, had been the reinforcement of the concept of partnership among developed and developing countries with a view to promoting growth and development with equity and social justice, giving special attention to least developed countries and Africa. Effective and practical cooperation with other United Nations agencies was needed.

As in all periods of radical change, there was widespread fear about the future. People were afraid of the impact that increased competition and downsizing would have on their jobs. Workers needed concrete reasons to believe in the future, and it was the task of those in government and international organizations to provide such hope through action designed to promote growth, jobs and equality of opportunities.

Mr. SANDSTRÖM (World Bank) said that the keynote of the Bank's recent activities had been partnership and the promotion of collaboration between the Bretton Woods institutions and the United Nations system. Consensus had emerged on a policy framework for development, and the challenge currently facing the Bank was how to implement its policies most effectively in the field.

With regard to the International Development Association, which was the backbone of the international effort to reduce poverty, considerable progress had been made. A total of $19 billion had been agreed for the Association's regular budget, and an interim trust fund valued at $3 billion had also been set

up. The Bank's debt initiative, which was designed to address the problems of the most highly indebted countries, had also been successful in that it had received substantial support from a broad spectrum of shareholders of the World Bank and International Finance Corporation. Specific proposals would be forthcoming by the autumn.

Regarding its programme of assistance to Bosnia, the Bank had overcome problems relating to sovereignty and arrears and had established good relations with all the players at local level. A trust fund had been established and a number of projects had either been initiated or were being planned. Greater emphasis was being placed on taking a more systematic approach to post-conflict issues.

The Bank had also been heavily involved in microfinancing projects. A consultative group had been established and a programme was under way to provide assistance worth $200 million to low-income entrepreneurs, specifically women. In addition, the Bank was actively pursuing a programme of human and institutional capacity-building for Africa with country-specific orientation and a strong African leadership. Capacity needs assessments had been initiated in 12 countries.

At a more general level, the Bank had tried to improve its procedures, structures and partnerships. Poverty reduction remained its primary goal, but individual country relationships had now come into sharper focus. The institution was attempting to improve its responsiveness to rapidly changing circumstances by tailoring its assistance strategies more effectively. It was precisely at the individual country level that the Bank wished to strengthen its relationship with the United Nations system. The Bank's new approach to country assistance strategies placed clients squarely at the heart of its work. To that end the institution had developed new structures designed to provide a "one-stop shop" for clients; an increasing number of such facilities would be located in the client-country itself.

The Bank had also taken a fresh look at the flexibility of its financial products. It had expanded capacity-building and significantly increased investment in training of staff and management. All those reforms were taking place against a background of reduced administrative budget costs, which had translated into impressive cost-effectiveness gains.

Mr. NARVEKAR (International Monetary Fund) said that, from the perspective of the Fund, the process of globalization was a highly favourable development. World trade had expanded in recent years at more than twice the rate of world output growth, and vast amounts of investment capital were currently available through the international capital markets. Consequently, the world economy offered many new opportunities for countries to expand production, create new jobs, accelerate growth and raise living standards. However, globalization had also increased the scope for transactions which could threaten the world's security and the health of its population, for example drug trafficking.

A further challenge arising from the globalization process was the market's demand that all countries should adhere to higher standards of economic policy-making. That in itself was not an unwelcome development, since it provided a further incentive for countries to take the necessary policy steps to achieve sustained, non-inflationary growth. At the same time, however, when countries allowed policy discipline to waiver, private investment frequently moved elsewhere, taking with it the many opportunities that globalization had to offer. In some cases the resulting capital outflows could have highly destabilizing effects. Moreover, in countries where overall economic development was perceived as unsatisfactory - which was unfortunately often the case in the poorest countries - there was a further risk of marginalization from the mainstream of global economic activity.

The recent performance of the international economy had been generally encouraging. Average world economic growth had continued at a satisfactory rate of 3 1/2 per cent in real terms in 1995 and, in most of the world, inflation had declined or remained subdued. Such positive trends reflected the considerable degree of consensus about what constituted good economic policy and the determination of an increasing number of countries to put such policies into effect. Performance had been particularly strong in developing countries, where average GDP growth had registered close to 6 per cent for the fourth consecutive year and average inflation had fallen to the lowest level in over a decade. Assuming that countries continued to strengthen domestic economic policy, IMF expected that average world growth would pick up to about 4 per cent per year in 1996 and 1997, and that inflation would remain moderate.

While the continued growth in private capital flows to developing countries was encouraging, it was important to recognize that such flows were not the major source of investment in those countries. Most investment was financed out of domestic savings which materialized when economic agents had confidence in the domestic economic environment. Private capital flows to developing countries could supplement domestic savings, but they could be abruptly suspended or even reversed when investors lost confidence. Likewise, although official flows remained important in helping to meet basic human and infrastructure needs in the poorest countries, aid increasingly was being directed to countries that provided an environment in which such flows could be used productively. It was therefore clear that domestic economic policies were important. Countries which had established the longest and most consistent record of implementing prudent market-based policies, and countries which had done the most to increase the flexibility of their economies, had been the most successful in mobilizing domestic savings and attracting foreign capital inflows. Those countries had therefore achieved the highest and most sustained rates of growth.

At the same time it was important to recognize that there were still a number of problems that required international cooperation. Thus, the Fund had concentrated its activities in three main areas: strengthening surveillance, refining existing instruments so as to deal more effectively with special situations and strengthening financial resources. The Fund had taken steps to ensure that its monitoring of the economic and financial policies of individual countries was continuous, comprehensive and thorough by requiring all countries to provide it with a minimum set of core data. In order to enable international capital markets to function more smoothly, the Fund was developing two sets of standards to guide members in the dissemination of economic and financial data to the public. Given that globalization of financial markets had heightened the importance of sound banking systems, it might also have a role in encouraging members to adopt similar standards in the area of banking supervision.

The initiatives to strengthen surveillance had substantially improved the Fund's ability to identify and address emerging problems before they became crises. The procedures under which the Fund could respond rapidly in emergency situations had been clarified, and emergency financing procedures had been adapted to include "post-chaos" situations where timely assistance could be

instrumental in the reconstruction of economies devastated by war and internal strife.

Ultimately, the Fund's ability to continue to fulfil its mandate would depend on adequate financial resources. Work was under way on the eleventh General Review of Quotas and a substantial increase would be sought. It was also seeking to strengthen its concessional resources to enable it to continue to support the reform efforts of its poorest members. The membership had decided to put the Enhanced Structural Adjustment Facility on a permanent footing and was seeking ways to finance it during the interim period before it became self-sustaining.

Some of the most important challenges facing the global economy could be tackled only through a deliberate collaborative effort. The Fund's main contribution would be to help establish the macroeconomic framework needed to underpin the implementation of the social and sectoral programmes launched by other institutions. Thus, it had joined in supporting the Special Initiative on Africa and hoped to contribute, albeit indirectly, to progress in combating international drug trafficking by helping countries to gain control of their fiscal situations so that more resources would be available for health and education, improve banking supervision to limit avenues for money laundering, and establish the sound domestic economic policies needed to promote a wide range of legitimate economic opportunities.

Mr. GEORGIANNI (Observer for Italy), speaking on behalf of the European Union, said that the European Union attached great importance to the policy dialogue and stressed the link between that dialogue and the high-level segment. It had a number of questions to put to the heads of institutions present.

On the subject of drug control, it would be interesting to learn how the institutions saw their specific place in the framework of international cooperation to limit production, trade and consumption of illicit drugs. With regard to UNCTAD, it would be interesting to hear their views on how developing countries should act to benefit from the potential of globalization and resist its possible negative effects. If a gap was growing within the developing world between growth markets and the rest of the countries, what should be done to avoid marginalization of the poorest countries and how could individual Governments deal most effectively with globalization?

Concerning public administration, it would be interesting to hear what the institutions considered were the key functions to be executed by Governments and what functions were to be executed by others such as the private sector and whether improving the capacity of public administration should be a core area for development cooperation.

Noting that the Council would be dealing with poverty, he inquired whether the institutions saw much potential for substantial employment generation in developing countries as a key tool to reduce poverty and social exclusion, what priority they placed on promoting productive employment and what impact structural adjustment programmes had had in that area. He would also like to learn how the institutions intended to follow up on the Special Initiative on Africa.

Mr. KAMAL (Pakistan) said that the World Trade Organization had emphasized the facilitation of capital mobility, but he would welcome further discussion of the concept of labour mobility. Furthermore, social and environmental issues included in international trade regimes often appeared more protectionist than altruistic, and he inquired how the World Trade Organization would address such protectionist tendencies.

He asked the Bretton Woods institutions to give their views on what could be done to prevent uneven development of a region and what steps could be taken at the global level to ensure equity of capital flows. Developing countries had been asked to factor environmental concerns into their national planning, but he wondered what the institutions were doing to promote sustainable production in the developed countries. Further discussion of symmetry in policy execution would also be helpful.

With regard to UNCTAD, transnational corporations had been gaining increasing clout in the global economy, and it might be time to revive the idea of a code of conduct to assist developing countries in dealing with them.

Mr. AMORIM (Brazil) noted that, in his statement, the Secretary-General of UNCTAD had, in effect, offered a post-globalization agenda. The international community was beginning to see where the process was leading, for both good and ill, as evidenced by the growing problem of marginalization. Internal actions were indeed necessary, but international cooperation was also very much needed in the new context.

On the subject of global financial integration, as a result of their integration into the world economy, a significant number of countries had become more exposed to the volatility of financial markets. General Assembly resolution 50/91 on the challenges and opportunities of global financial integration had sent a clear message in support of a stronger role for international financial institutions, and it would be appropriate to hear from the heads of international financial and trade institutions on the status of implementation of some of the commitments made in that resolution, particularly in paragraphs 4, 5 and 6 thereof.

It was often argued that the relationship between the United Nations and the Bretton Woods institutions should be based on comparative advantage. The European Union believed that the United Nations should remain a forum where the complexities of international economic relations could be addressed; it therefore favoured a cooperative approach. Cooperation had been developed between the United Nations and the Bretton Woods institutions in a number of initiatives such as the Global Environment Facility and the Joint and Co-Sponsored United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS, but it was essential to broaden the relationship and expand it to include central economic issues related to recent developments arising from the globalization process. In that context, he wondered how the IMF and the World Bank envisaged the dialogue at the intergovernmental, secretariat and operational levels and their views on an approach emphasizing the cooperative relationship regarding central economic issues. How could reforms in the Bretton Woods institutions help to bring them closer to the United Nations and vice versa?

Mr. MONTOYA (Colombia) said that the recent series of global development conferences had not contributed to multilateralism; on the contrary, a pessimistic view of prospects for resource flows had been expressed in many of their conclusions. Terms like "reform", "strengthening", "rationalization" and "efficiency" had been used to justify and conceal the true intention of restricting resource flows to multilateral institutions to a minimum.

He would like to learn what the World Bank was doing to react to the problem of negative net transfer of resources between the World Bank and developing countries, and it had considered a review of structural adjustment programmes. It was crucial to learn whether they had really helped alleviate

poverty or actually intensified it, and whether any alternative mechanisms existed.

Turning to the International Monetary Fund, he wondered what the international community could expect with regard to a solution to the multilateral debt problems of developing countries. The main reason for the lack of an integral strategy appeared to be a certain rigidity, and he hoped that a solution to the multilateral debt problem and the issues of bilateral and commercial debt could be reached simultaneously. He inquired whether the strengthening of mechanisms to monitor policies would apply not only to the developing countries but to countries where the capital flows, especially of private capital, originated. Finally, UNCTAD appeared to be a better forum than the World Trade Organization in which to address investment from a development perspective.

The meeting rose at 1 p.m.

UNITED
NATIONS

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Economic and Social
Council

PROVISIONAL

E/1996/SR.9
8 July 1996

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Substantive session of 1996

PROVISIONAL SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 9th MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Monday, 24 June 1996, at 3 p.m.

President: Mr. GERVAIS (Côte d'Ivoire)

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POLICY DIALOGUE AND DISCUSSION ON IMPORTANT DEVELOPMENTS IN THE WORLD ECONOMY AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION WITH HEADS OF MULTILATERAL FINANCIAL AND TRADE INSTITUTIONS OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM (continued)

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The meeting was called to order at 3.15 p.m.

POLICY DIALOGUE AND DISCUSSION ON IMPORTANT DEVELOPMENTS IN THE WORLD ECONOMY AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION WITH HEADS OF MULTILATERAL FINANCIAL AND TRADE INSTITUTIONS OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM (continued) (E/1996/60)

Mr. SANDSTRÖM (World Bank) said it was apparent from the discussion that there was a strong demand for results and the more effective use of development resources. It was time, therefore, to move beyond global conferences and broad policy statements to the achievement of results at the country level. Regarding cooperation between the Bretton Woods institutions and the United Nations system, he felt that there too the focus had to be at the country level; the borrowing countries must become involved in achieving results and making use of the resources of the Bretton Woods institutions and the United Nations system.

The issue of increased private flows to some countries and the marginalization of other countries was interlinked with the question of results and the effectiveness of development. The increase in private flows to some countries signalled an adequate infrastructure, a skilled workforce and stable policies which enabled private firms and individuals to take the risk of making investments. However, only a dozen countries were receiving 75 to 80 per cent of the significant private flows that had emerged over the past five years, and a large number of countries were being marginalized. Most of those countries were in Africa, and a few were in South Asia. There was clearly a need for the right policies, but the capacity of Governments to manage the economy and engage civil society at large was even more important.

Capacity-building was also needed at the regional level; more attention must be given to the Economic Commission for Africa and the African Development Bank, which should assume more of a leadership role in the development of Africa. A related question was that of follow-up to the United Nations System-wide Special Initiative of Africa; in that respect, the World Bank would focus on much closer cooperation with the United Nations system. At the same time, the Special Initiative itself must be driven by African countries and

institutions. Emphasis had to be placed on the sectors, and the work begun in such sectors as education and health should be continued.

On the question of structural adjustment, he said that the issue was not whether adjustment was needed but how reforms should be carried out. In particular, it was necessary to anticipate the effects on those who were vulnerable and institute measures to buffer the impact of change.

Drug control was one of the few areas in which the World Bank was not directly involved. It focused on encouraging alternative means of production and livelihood, strengthening the financial and banking sectors so as to minimize the possibilities of laundering drug money, and promoting judicial reform to reduce the possibilities for corruption. Ultimately the issue of drug control was one of demand management.

The World Bank had untapped potential for increasing resource flows; annual lending could be raised by about $10 billion a year without the need for a further infusion of resources. The World Bank was looking at ways in which the countries that wished to borrow more from the Bank could do so; one way was by providing a broader range of financial products, for example the freedom to choose the currency in which money was borrowed.

Mr. NARVEKAR (International Monetary Fund (IMF)) said that the Fund was concerned with reducing budget deficits to sustainable levels while ensuring that expenditures in such areas as health and education were protected. Sustainable development and well-balanced growth provided employment opportunities and reduced the need for activities such as drug trafficking and the cultivation of drug crops.

Regarding the key functions of Governments from the perspective of IMF, he said that Governments should first promote monetary, financial stability, low levels of inflation and high levels of employment; second, ensure realistic and appropriate levels of relative prices; third, stay out of sectors in which they did not belong; and, fourth, uphold the rule of law.

IMF was fully aware of the importance of education and would continue to attach great importance to the protection of Government expenditure on appropriate education in any efforts to reduce Government budget deficits. While not directly involved in environmental concerns, IMF asked about environmental protection in government projects.

It had been suggested that if trade deficit countries were being asked to devalue, surplus countries should be asked to recycle their surpluses. However, trade deficit countries were not automatically asked to devalue: the action taken depended on the circumstances. As to the question of recycling, it was the responsibility of countries with surpluses to follow appropriate policies so that capital would be attracted to the trade-deficit countries. In addition, IMF and other institutions were committed to encouraging Governments to increase their official development assistance and attain the targets set. Whenever IMF bought currency from surplus countries and sold it to deficit countries, a degree of recycling was involved.

There was already quite extensive collaboration between the United Nations and the Bretton Woods institutions. Cooperation with the United Nations Development Programme was in place in many countries and cooperation with the International Labour Organization was increasing. IMF contributed to a large number of papers prepared by various United Nations bodies. That cooperation would continue to expand. However, a bureaucratic approach to such expansion could be counterproductive, just as anything that would involve changing the basic character of the institutions involved could be detrimental.

IMF would certainly try to take a flexible position on the debt problem and was preparing specific proposals on the subject, in close collaboration with the World Bank.

Mr. RICUPERO (Secretary-General, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)) said that, while concerned with the diversification of tobacco production, especially in African countries, UNCTAD did not have a drug programme.

The issues of globalization and marginalization were highly complex. The main role of UNCTAD was to help developing countries better integrate into the world economy and the world trading system according to their different levels of development. The more advanced countries had problems of access to markets, technology and investment, and the least developed countries had problems of capacity-building and supply. UNCTAD had therefore proposed different solutions for the different problems, in partnership with various other institutions. The approach to job creation was more or less the same worldwide: it was to accelerate sustained growth, deepen trade integration, particularly in labour-intensive products, and assist small and medium-sized enterprises.

As to initiatives in Africa, UNCTAD was participating in a project to help African countries take advantage of the opportunities of the Uruguay Round. In South Africa, it was trying to involve the private sector and civil society in general in its work and would be organizing a meeting to determine how best to arrange a forum with the private sector. In general, the private sector participated actively in specific areas, for example, private companies were much more involved than Governments in the iron ore sector.

UNCTAD had a particular area of expertise in investment because of the transfer of the Centre for Transnational Corporations from New York. It was being proposed that the high-level segment of the next meeting of the Trade and Development Board should be devoted entirely to an analysis of the implications of a possible multilateral framework for investment, with the participation of chief executive officers from companies. UNCTAD had recently organized two seminars on the subject and was preparing a document on the pros and cons of such a framework. The role of UNCTAD was to present analytical work and solid data that would allow countries to make their own decisions on the issue.

Although the General Assembly had decided to discontinue work on a code of conduct for transnational corporations, the question was likely to be raised again in the future, especially the issue of establishing a balance between the rights and obligations of the countries which were the sources of investment and the countries which received investments. It had also been asked whether UNCTAD could assist countries in their negotiations with transnational corporations. UNCTAD already had several technical assistance projects to assist countries both in setting up legal regimes for foreign investment and in negotiating and dealing with transnational corporations.

On the issue of capital versus labour mobility, it was true that globalization and liberalization were mainly concerned with goods and services, financial services and investment and did not include technology, labour or immigration. The need for increased labour mobility had been raised by a number of countries, but the timing was not propitious owing to growing unemployment.

On the question of international financial cooperation, he had put forward some ideas with regard to the possibility of setting up an early warning system. There was extreme resistance to any kind of "post-globalization" agenda. Countries had accepted a measure of limitation of their sovereignty in the World Trade Organization, but nothing of the kind existed in the financial field.

Meanwhile, many actions taken in the financial field on a purely unilateral basis had far-reaching consequences for many countries in the world. The problem needed to be brought out into the open and discussed.

Mr. HOYER (Germany) said that the conclusion of the Uruguay Round and the establishment of the World Trade Organization (WTO) represented the achievement of an important intermediate goal. Currently, making full use of the opportunities afforded by a liberal, multilateral system of world trade was crucial for growth and development, and safeguarding and further developing that system were a major task for the international community. He stressed the need for progress in the liberalization of the service sector and financial services and for a programme to ensure that the results of further liberalization were evenly balanced.

While developing countries should make greater efforts to share in world trade by promoting sensible economic development and taking full advantage of the opportunities available to them, they required the help of measures like those provided for in the Uruguay Round. The private-sector structures of the developing countries should be afforded stronger support, and the Governments needed assistance in developing the appropriate legal systems and business-promotion instruments.

The United Nations system could play a specific role in promoting growth and sustainable development in the process of liberalization and globalization. The joint initiative for Africa was an example of the results beginning to be produced by effective collaboration between the United Nations system and international financial institutions.

He asked the representatives of the financial institutions for their views on the desirability of intensified regional cooperation, provided such cooperation was consistent with the rules of the multilateral system and did not increase protectionism against outsiders. The integration of internal markets and the world market should be achieved by means of interregional cooperation, which Germany had always strongly advocated. Germany saw interregional trade cooperation, not as an alternative to the global, multilateral process, but as an important contribution to the strengthening of WTO and further global integration.

In an effort to help the least developed and other poor African countries benefit from world trade liberalization, Germany had cancelled or rescheduled a

great deal of their debt since 1978, and had recently begun providing development aid to them solely in the form of grants. It was also waiving official development assistance claims, provided that the funds thus made available were used in part to protect the environment and combat poverty.

The Member States must use reforms within the United Nations system to enable the United Nations to act with greater efficiency in core areas; better representation of Asia, Africa and Latin America and the Caribbean on the Security Council was required. In conclusion, he called for a more equitable and transparent scale of assessments along with greater budgetary discipline, better management and closer coordination within the United Nations system.

Ms. BURTON (Ireland) asked what future role the financial institutions envisaged for themselves in the areas of poverty elimination and helping countries to design specific poverty reduction strategies. She also asked for their views on the compatibility of such activities with structural adjustment programmes, and asked what measures they were taking to incorporate the programmes of action agreed to at successive United Nations summits.

In regard to the problem of debt, she asked whether the proposals on multilateral debt announced by the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund meant that those institutions viewed the debt levels of many countries as unsustainable. She also asked for clarification of the relationship between future structural adjustment programmes and continuing social investment in such areas as health and education, and specifically of the minimum acceptable levels of investment in education and other social areas in the least developed countries.

She also asked for a more concrete explanation of the role the institutions saw themselves playing in conflict prevention and rehabilitation, especially with regard to early-warning systems. She would welcome a clarification of the enhanced structural adjustment facility proposed by the International Monetary Fund in the light of the intense debate the proposal had engendered among European non-governmental organizations.

The reforms envisaged by the financial institutions would perhaps produce better economic discipline, but a question remained as to whether the structural adjustment programmes, as currently formulated, would truly help the least developed countries, or whether those countries required more specific measures that took their lack of economic capacity into account.

Mr. CALOVSKI (The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia) said that, given the current world economic situation, the focus of effort of the international community and the multilateral financial and trade institutions of the United Nations system should be on the economic needs and aspirations of the Member States.

In that context, the basic economic need of The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia was for integration into the European economy, eventually leading to full membership in the European Union. The process of pan-European economic cooperation should be supported by all European States, without preconditions. He stressed that the multilateral financial and trade institutions had a larger role to play in strengthening European integration, and that countries in transition needed to become equal partners in the development of the European economy. He asked why, therefore, the financial institutions had done so little to facilitate the integration of the transitional countries into the European economy and fully associated himself with the views just expressed on the topic by the German representative.

Mr. DE ROJAS (Venezuela) joined other delegations in expressing disappointment that the World Trade Organization was not participating in the current debate.

He asked whether the World Bank's efforts in the area of capacity-building were tied to the Bank's own loan programme, and asked for the Bank's views on the appropriate distribution of responsibilities between it and the United Nations Development Programme in that area.

He fully associated himself with the views of the representative of Brazil and expressed interest in the idea of establishing an early-warning system to be operated jointly by the United Nations, the Bretton Woods institutions and the World Trade Organization. He requested further details on how such a system would be implemented, with reference to the institutional reform of the Agenda for Development.

Mr. ISAKOV (Russian Federation) stressed the importance of strengthened development cooperation and a rational division of labour among the United Nations organizations, the Bretton Woods institutions and the World Trade Organization. A rational division of labour also meant that recipient Governments must bear their share of responsibility for results. For example, the relatively high level of effectiveness of the Bretton Woods institutions'

development activities was largely due to the conditionality of the aid they provided. He asked for the views of the senior officials of the Bretton Woods institutions on how the development activities of the United Nations system could be enhanced, inter alia, by increasing such conditionality.

Given that countries with transitional economies were beginning to show signs of macroeconomic stabilization, he asked for clarification of the World Bank's strategy regarding such countries, the potential for cooperation between the Bank and the United Nations and the possibility of overlap in their relevant activities.

As the world economic situation improved, the aid priorities of the Bretton Woods institutions needed to undergo a change of focus at the regional, country and sectoral levels. He asked whether the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund agreed with that comment and whether they saw the potential for more active use of United Nations expertise and strengthened cooperation between the Bretton Woods institutions and the United Nations at the global, regional and country levels.

In recent years, the Bretton Woods institutions, particularly the World Bank, had introduced the concept of sustainable human-centred development into their project activities. He asked for details of the institutions' follow-up to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development and of their plans for updating the Bank's overall sustainable development strategy from the standpoint of an optimal division of labour.

Mr. OTUYELI (Observer for Nigeria) said that while the International Monetary Fund had cited a figure of 5 per cent for recent growth in gross domestic product in the African region, the figure cited by the United Nations in document E/1996/60 was far less optimistic. He therefore asked how the two figures were to be reconciled, in view of the undermining effect of structural adjustment programmes on the ability of Governments to provide social services and maintain development. He also asked for an explanation of references to rising commodity prices, when countries in his region were suffering from falling prices for the commodities they exported.

He expressed the view that while bureaucrats needed to become more time-conscious and efficient, bureaucracy in and of itself did not constitute a barrier to development, as portrayed by some in the financial community. He also called for application of private-sector methods of debt-handling in

government financial programmes of the type administered by the Bretton Woods institutions.

Finally, with regard to the burden of debt servicing in Africa, he said that although the International Monetary Fund had cited growth in the flow of private capital to poor countries, much of that flow represented speculative investment that did not necessarily benefit the inhabitants of those countries. He therefore asked how the increased flow of private capital was to be reconciled with the economic deterioration of countries in the region.

Mr. SANDSTRÖM (World Bank), replying to a question raised by the representative of Ireland, said there were 8 countries in which the debt level was considered to be unsustainable for the next 10 years and another 12 countries in which an estimated period of from 5 to 10 years would be necessary to reach sustainable levels. The debt initiative, aimed at bringing those countries to sustainable debt levels, required a sum of $6 billion.

Not only were structural adjustment programmes compatible with social investments, they were necessary for poverty reduction. In the past budget cuts had been made in the social sectors rather than in allocations for the military or for State-owned enterprises. The Bank had introduced conditionality in order to protect social sectors during periods of adjustment and maintain or increase investments in education and health sectors. In that regard, it was necessary to ensure that the population, and especially the poor, had a stronger voice in setting policies and priorities. Rather than determine specific levels of social investment, it was important to focus on the quality and effectiveness of the use of resources. The World Bank had met its commitment to the 20/20 initiative even before the World Summit for Social Development, with at least 20 per cent of its funds going to the social sector.

With regard to the role of women in the developing world, the best investment to be made today was in the education of girls. On the subject of the World Bank's role in conflict prevention and resolution, he said that the Bank worked to promote development, which was the best way to prevent conflict. It was not involved in conflict resolution or in providing humanitarian aid.

In reply to an inquiry as to why the World Bank had done so little to assist European countries in transition to integrate into the European Union, he said that the Bank focused on investment to prepare countries in transition for

their integration into the European Union and other regional organizations but was not involved in the political or regional negotiations in that area.

Regarding a question raised by the representative of Venezuela on capacity-building, he said that the World Bank used concessional resources, particularly in the initial phase, and that grants were provided from an institutional development fund to assist countries that were initiating capacity-building. The Bank managed several other trust funds which were funded by various donors. For larger-scale capacity-building efforts, the Bank drew on the International Development Association (IDA) for the poorest countries and on the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) for middle-income countries. Furthermore, the Bank was working in close cooperation with the United Nations Development Programme in order to exploit its expertise at the field level.

In reply to a question posed by the representative of the Russian Federation as to how the United Nations could be more effective at the regional level, he said that the United Nations already had a very strong field presence and should increase its assistance at that level.

With regard to the follow-up to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, he said that the environmental sector was perhaps the most rapidly expanding sector in the Bank's lending programme, with annual lending for environmental projects of up to $2.5 billion per annum. Major research was being conducted to develop environmental indicators that were applicable to both developed and developing countries. Finally, the World Bank was working closely with UNEP and UNDP on the Global Environmental Facility which was moving into its operational phase.

Mr. NARVEKAR (International Monetary Fund (IMF)) concurred with the representative of Germany that there was no inherent contradiction between multilateralism and regional arrangements, provided that the latter were not exclusive in nature. As the representative of the World Bank had stated, it was difficult to set specific targets for poverty alleviation, which must go hand in hand with structural reform. Adequate social safety nets were essential to take care of those segments of the population which could be adversely affected in the short term as a result of structural changes. The Fund was working continuously to improve the short-term beneficial effects for the common man and poverty alleviation potential of its programmes. With regard to conflict resolution, once countries were engaged in rehabilitation, the Fund provided

assistance by establishing the framework for financial and monetary stability to enable the process of reconstruction and development to go forward.

Nothing in the Fund's mandate prevented it from helping eastern European economies to integrate into the European and the world economies. In fact, the Fund provided policy advice and technical and financial assistance not only to the transitional economies in Europe but also to other European countries to encourage them to open their markets to exports from the transitional economies.

In reply to a question posed by the representative of the Russian Federation, he said that in recent times the Fund had developed solid cooperation with the International Labour Organization both in the field and at headquarters. A review of that collaboration had already been completed with regard to Zimbabwe. Finally, in reply to the representative of Nigeria, he said that the figures of growth used by the Fund for a given country were based on its work in that country. While growth in Africa had been faster than in the past, he fully acknowledged that the improvement by no means signalled an end to all the problems there.

Mr. RICUPERO (United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)) said it was paradoxical that, following the successful conclusion of the Uruguay Round and the establishment of the World Trade Organization, regional agreements had proliferated rather than diminished in number. While regional agreements could be building-blocks, they could also create obstacles to multilateral trade agreements if they were insufficiently open. The idea of "open regionalism", whereby certain regional agreements allowed accession by any country that was willing to abide by the rules, was gaining ground. In the light of the current trend towards the integration of a productive system worldwide, it was worth examining whether original agreements were truly in harmony with the spirit of globalization.

With regard to the economies in transition in Europe, most of the work within the framework of the United Nations was carried out by the Economic Commission for Europe. UNCTAD had worked closely with that Commission to develop programmes to assist those economies in transition in the process of joining WTO to frame laws on competition, to convert their military and armaments industry to peaceful purposes and to further privatization.

On the question of an early-warning system to detect potential economic deterioration, the United Nations was the main body responsible for monitoring situations which often began at the financial, monetary or trade level but ultimately had implications of a humanitarian or security nature. For example, the decline in coffee prices in central Africa had led to events with disastrous

consequences for the coffee-producing countries of that region. Most effective coordination among United Nations agencies was essential to any system of early detection.

With regard to commodities, he said that the prices of some commodities, in particular minerals, had increased in 1993, whereas those of such products as cocoa or coffee had not. He recalled that in the 1980s average commodity prices had been at historically low levels, falling even below the levels of the 1930s, a trend which had helped to control inflation in industrial countries. A brief period of recovery had ensued, followed by renewed deterioration. Copper, for instance, had recently dropped in price. The successes of current macroeconomic policies owed much to the extremely low price of oil.

Mr. ALOM (Bangladesh) said that, while 1995 had shown encouraging signs of progress, including an increase in economic activity in the developing countries, the improvement in the world economy was fraught with uncertainties. Fiscal consolidation and structural reforms were incomplete and subject to high risk, which had serious implications for developing countries in a globalized economy. He disagreed that domestic action was the right approach to confront the challenges of globalization and marginalization. Only through the active participation of the population and increased levels of official development assistance could those challenges be met. Greater policy coordination among the major industrialized countries was essential in order to achieve social macroeconomic convergence and consistency in fiscal and monetary policies. These critical and useful functions could be achieved through a formal system of coordination by the International Monetary Fund. In that regard, he wondered whether the Fund had plans to establish such a system.

Many developing countries, his own included, had initiated the reform process through the liberalization of their economies. Yet, the outcome of reforms had been uneven, and many developing countries remained particularly vulnerable to fluctuations in commodity prices. It was all the more disturbing, therefore, to note that developing countries were now facing the threat of new trade barriers because of environmental, social and employment considerations. He asked whether UNCTAD had any policy guidelines for dealing with the threat of those new trade barriers. He agreed with the representative of Pakistan on the need to create an environment for the international mobility of labour.

In the past, multilateral institutions, including those of the United Nations system, had played a significant role in supporting developing countries which had initiated reform measures, particularly through grant assistance and concessional lending to low-income countries. For such countries, official development assistance remained a major source of external finance. The decline in the flow of such assistance was disappointing. Two thirds of it was

earmarked for countries of strategic interest to donors, while three quarters of the world's poor received only one quarter. He asked whether the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund had any plans to increase foreign direct investment to low-income countries.

Mr. WILMOT (Ghana) said that, while his delegation was relieved to learn that the developing countries had been registering remarkable economic growth and that real income per person had been rising since 1995 in a vast majority of those countries, it noted that the real per capita income recorded in most developing countries in 1995 and 1996 was inferior to what it had been in 1980. In most of the developing world, especially in Africa, countries were struggling to reach the levels of 1980, a sobering fact which tempered any feeling of gratification.

According to the World Economic and Social Survey 1996, direct foreign investment in the capital-importing developing countries had grown from $17 billion in 1990 to $64 billion in 1995. However, that investment was highly concentrated in a small number of developing countries, with only small amounts destined for the poorest countries. It was clear that, in order to attract increased foreign direct investment, the poorer countries required more adequate support from the international community. The reasons for the low volume of investment flows to the poor developing countries were not only economic. In some instances, investors had been discouraged by incorrect perceptions based on sensational media reports which focused on images of disaster and failure rather than on the progress achieved. Africa had been the greatest victim of that phenomenon. Donor countries and development agencies should apprise investors and the international media of the true situation in individual developing countries. Donor countries and development agencies should match the efforts of the poor developing countries to restructure their economies by establishing a package of incentives to encourage foreign companies to set up operations in those countries.

The representative of the World Bank had referred to the Bank's participation in a programme of microfinancing for the poor. Since the ordinary citizen saw development not in terms of economic growth but in the light of employment opportunities, basic education and primary health care facilities, and nutritional standards, he wondered what percentage of the World Bank's overall investment resources was allocated to activities in the social sector or for poverty alleviation.

The debt burden was a very real impediment to the economic and social development of many developing countries. It was therefore gratifying to learn that after several years of hesitation, the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank were currently formulating a specific plan to tackle the problems

confronted by the most heavily indebted low-income developing countries. If all of the conditions for the implementation of the plan were fulfilled, he asked how much of the multilateral debt owed by countries of sub-Saharan Africa would be wiped out. In that connection, he recalled that Africa's total foreign debt, a substantial portion of which was owed to the multilateral financial institutions, was about $300 billion, to which $20 billion was added annually in capital and interest. A recent study had revealed that the World Bank had at least $8 billion of surplus resources, which could be used to finance debt reduction of the poorest countries. He asked the representative of the World Bank to comment on that study.

While it was recognized that regional economic cooperation and integration promoted trade and investment opportunities as well as sustainable economic growth and development, there had been very little progress towards economic integration, particularly in Africa. If regional markets could be strengthened, it was very likely that the flow of foreign direct investment would be enhanced considerably. Accordingly, support for regional integration among developing countries should feature in the development cooperation policies and strategies of the multilateral financial institutions, development agencies and the donor community.

It was disturbing to observe that, with the disappearance of the cold war, a number of donor countries no longer saw any rationale for official development assistance. His delegation believed that a new rationale for development cooperation should be established. Just as it was accepted that countries were morally bound to evolve a social policy, development cooperation must be accepted as a moral imperative, based on genuine partnership and mutuality of interests and benefits.

Dr. NAKAJIMA (World Health Organization (WHO)) said that the World Health Organization as working in an enhanced partnership with the Bretton Woods institutions, in particular, the World Bank, in the field of health.

He underscored the social and financial costs related to disease and ill-health and noted in particular the vast expenditures required to combat common infectious diseases and diabetes in the United States of America and of controlling malaria in sub-Saharan Africa. Other countries, developing and developed alike, faced similar burdens.

On a more positive note, investments in health yielded significant social and economic returns; for example, since the launching of the WHO onchocerciasis (river blindness) programme in Africa in 1974 with the support of several United Nations organizations, including the World Bank, more than 1.7 million additional years of productive labour had become available and approximately 25 million hectares of fertile land had been opened up for resettlement as a

result of control measures. The programme had been extended to other African countries and was expected to end by the year 2002.

Immediate priorities for WHO included combating "old" diseases and preventing newly emerging diseases from causing massive economic losses. WHO had undertaken extensive reforms to strengthen its own capacities and looked forward to cooperating with its partners to support all countries in a spirit of solidarity and respect. The objective must be to reduce the significant burden of disease and ill-health which hampered the social and economic development of many countries, both developed and developing.

Mr. SINON (Malaysia) said that the time had come to review the governance structure of the Bretton Woods institutions, which should reflect the contributions of new and emerging economies. His delegation was concerned that inadequate progress had been made since the World Summit for Social Development with regard to the reduction of multilateral debt.

The role of the United Nations with respect to issues relating to the social responsibility and environmental accountability of transnational corporations should be enhanced. He noted that the World Economic and Social Survey 1996 painted too rosy a picture and that there were discrepancies in some of the figures contained therein. It was imperative not to deflect attention from serious economic problems. On the question of partnership, he underscored the need to devise a transparent approach to multilateral decision-making which took into account the work of the United Nations as well as the views of the Group of Seven.

Given the significant erosion of the ability of central banks to contend with volatile financial flows, he wondered whether the measures instituted by the International Monetary Fund would adequately address those problems. Lastly, he emphasized that nations must display a moral conscience in order to ensure that the commitments undertaken at recent major international conferences, from the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development to the second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), were honoured.

Mrs. CASTRO de BARISH (Costa Rica) expressed surprise that none of the organization representatives who had spoken thus far had addressed the needs of women and children and the important work of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF). It was imperative to ensure adequate follow-up to the World Summit for Children held in 1990. Education, health and basic nutrition were crucial for economic and social development, and UNCTAD should assist women and children victimized by poverty.

Her delegation agreed with the Russian delegation that sustainable human development must receive priority attention, and she wished to know what the

United Nations Development Programme and the Inter-Agency Task Force on the International Conference on Population and Development were doing to that end. The Bretton Woods institutions should cooperate with UNICEF to assist women and children, as well as victims of anti-personnel mines. Her delegation was pleased that the World Bank planned to provide aid for the benefit of girls, and it looked forward to increased cooperation between UNDP, the Bretton Woods institutions and UNICEF.

Mr. OWADA (Japan) recalled the statements heard at the preceding meeting and said that consideration should be given at future sessions to focusing the policy dialogue on a selected issue or issues in order to best utilize the time available.

His delegation advocated a comprehensive approach to development cooperation which took into account all relevant factors, including official development assistance, direct investment and trade, and which could be shared by all participants in the development process. He wished to know how the organizations concerned planned to ensure a coordinated framework for such cooperation.

Mr. YU Qingtai (China) welcomed the efforts of UNCTAD to promote South-South cooperation and North-South dialogue and wished to know how that organization intended to assist the developing countries, in particular, the least developed among them, to meet the challenges presented by the globalization of the world economy and trade and ensure that they were integrated into the world economy.

Although it was true that countries could not rely solely on official development assistance and foreign investment, the least developed countries had scant domestic resources to mobilize. He wished to know how the International Monetary Fund could help those countries.

Mr. HIDAYAT (Indonesia) said that cooperation between the Bretton Woods institutions and the United Nations was required at both the policy and field levels. He inquired why those institutions appeared reluctant to enter into formal agreements for specific projects.

His delegation believed that UNCTAD should play an important role in ensuring a coordinated response by the United Nations system to recent international conferences.

Mr. MARILANGA (Philippines) endorsed the views expressed by the representatives of Bangladesh and Pakistan regarding labour mobility.

Economic growth was as important to developing countries as were environmental concerns in the context of sustainable development. He stressed the importance of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and UNCTAD to the developing countries and welcomed the reforms under way in

those organizations. His delegation wished to know how UNCTAD planned to strengthen its cooperation with UNIDO in a manner which took full advantage of the synergies and complementarities of the two organizations.

Mr. SANDSTRÖM (World Bank), replying to the representative of Bangladesh, said that the World Bank did have plans to help increase foreign direct investment flows to poorer countries. The Bank was very aware of the need to avoid labelling those countries in a manner which discouraged investors. With reference to the questions from the representative of Ghana, he said that the Bank considered that all its loans were intended to alleviate poverty. A coherent investment programme was essential in order to achieve poverty reduction, and education and job creation programmes must go hand in hand.

As to why the Bank would not wipe out all the debt of sub-Saharan African countries, he pointed out that $6 billion would be needed to bring the debt to sustainable levels and that it was not necessary to reduce it further. To do so would mean allocating scarce resources which could be used for higher priorities. A number of countries, including some in Africa, questioned even the planned level of debt reduction and felt that countries which had not managed their debt responsibly should not be rewarded with concessional aid. The World Bank did not plan to use its reserves or surplus for debt reduction because it wished to retain its AAA rating so that it could continue to borrow in capital markets on highly concessional terms.

Turning to the Malaysian representative's questions, he said, with regard to governance issues, that the Bank was undertaking a review - which was linked to the quota review in IMF - of the voting shares, in the light of rapid shifts in relative economic power and the emerging economies of eastern Asia. The process, which might take more than a year, was very complicated, and he noted that a similar effort some years earlier had not yielded an agreed adjustment.

With regard to the delay in reaching a solution to the debt problem, he pointed out that the Bank had submitted a report on the framework for such a solution to the Development Committee of IMF in April. That Committee and the Interim Committee of IMF had agreed on the framework, which was now being developed in greater detail. Sources of financing were being identified, and the Bank hoped for a solution by October.

With respect to the Japanese delegation's call for a new cooperation strategy, he said that the Bank's approach recognized the need for sustainable environmental and social development and investment in people and that the details of any approach must be worked out at the country level.

Mr. NARVEKAR (International Monetary Fund (IMF)) noted that IMF was considering selling some of its gold reserves so that the proceeds could be invested to subsidize lending.

In reply to the Malaysian representative's query as to whether the Fund's efforts to cope with the volatility of capital was adequate, he said that the Fund was endeavouring both to strengthen its capital base and to streamline arrangements under which loans could be extended in emergencies.

Mr. RICUPERO (Secretary-General, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)), referring to the question of labour mobility, said that UNCTAD would deal with the issue in its joint efforts with the World Trade Organization (WTO). That point had been stressed in all the UNCTAD documents concerning services.

He agreed with the representative of the World Bank that there was no universal formula for a development strategy and that country-specific strategies were required. UNCTAD was studying examples of successful development in Asia, Latin America and elsewhere and hoped that some of the lessons learned could be applied elsewhere. Triangular coordination, which involved incorporating the successful experience of developing countries, was one possible approach.

As to the Chinese delegation's question regarding how UNCTAD would assist the least developed countries to meet the challenges of globalization, he recalled his initial presentation to the Council at its current session. UNCTAD planned to do far more than monitor the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s and was considering various ways to achieve that goal, including the establishment of a trust fund.

UNCTAD cooperated with UNIDO in three main areas which built on their respective synergies: enterprise development, investment and technology. His agency was also working to improve the situation of women and children and to eradicate poverty, and its mandate in that regard had been reinforced in South Africa.

Mr. GIORGIANNI (Observer for Italy), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, noted that a delegation had brought up the question of the reform of the Security Council and said that his country also was particularly interested in a speedy conclusion to that process. The reform must not provide for an increase in the number of permanent members. Rather, the number of non-permanent members should be increased, in order to allow for a more regular and frequent rotation of those countries which made a particularly significant contribution to the work of the United Nations, in particular, to its peace-keeping operations.

His delegation's proposal limited competition for the newly established seats to 30 countries, to be elected by secret ballot, which was the true essence of democracy. Those countries would not be able to compete for the 10 current non-permanent seats. Those seats would be available to all small and

medium-sized countries. There were 124 countries which either had never, or had only once, been elected to the Security Council. The principles of participation and democracy must guide the reform process.

The meeting rose at 6.10 p.m.